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

Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3–6 June 2003

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**



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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW), held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 15 to 19 January 1990, adopted the SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 20 of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, 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 organisations.
2. In light of the above, and following decisions of the First and Second Meetings of the Contracting Parties to SPAW (Havana, Cuba, 23 to 24 September 2001 and Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 May 2002, respectively), this Meeting was convened by the Secretariat to the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, from 3 to 6 June 2003.
3. The Meeting had the following objectives:
  - a) to review the mandate of STAC from the First and Second Meetings of the Contracting Parties to SPAW (Havana, Cuba, 24 to 25 September 2001 and Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 May 2002, respectively) and the status of implementation of relevant decisions;
  - b) to review and take the appropriate action on the *ad hoc* Working Group's report on the review of the criteria for the listing of species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol;
  - c) to review the status of implementation of the 2002-2003 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme; and
  - d) to review the proposed draft 2004 - 2005 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme, including the STAC activities.
4. The twelve Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol were invited to nominate their respective representatives to be part of the STAC, in keeping with Article 20 of the Protocol. Other member Governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme, United Nations agencies and non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations, were invited to participate as Observers. Annex IV includes the list of participants at the Meeting.

## AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The Meeting was opened on Tuesday, 3 June 2003 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room at Breezes SuperClubs in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, by Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme of the

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-CAR/RCU), and Mrs. Joan P.E. Theodora-Brewster, Minister of Public Health and Social Development of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles.

6. In his opening remarks, the Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme highlighted the major accomplishments under the framework of the SPAW Protocol and its Regional Programme, despite the short time which had elapsed since it's the Protocol entered into force, less than three years ago.
7. He congratulated the Governments of Barbados and the United States of America for recently becoming Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol, and the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and the United States of America for the financial support given to the Programme, in particular for convening the Meeting. He also recognized the important work done by the *ad hoc* Group on the review of the criteria for the listing of species in the annexes to the Protocol under the excellent leadership of Mr. Paul Hoetjes of the Netherlands Antilles.
8. The Coordinator referred to the important accomplishment of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and to the creation of a new alliance with USAID for the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef which has made available US\$1.5 million, which will be matched by the UN Foundation, the main donor to ICRAN. He mentioned that the Secretariat is exploring additional sources of funding for ICRAN activities in the Caribbean, in addition to the accreditation of ICRAN by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as a Type II initiative, potentially increasing its impact globally and in the region.
9. The Coordinator acknowledged the renewed support of the Government of France for the Regional Activity Centre (RAC), reactivated in January 2003, which resulted in positive impacts in the implementation of the SPAW Protocol.
10. The Coordinator highlighted issues critical to the region, such as the sustainability of tourism and fisheries, and said that he is encouraged by the fact that the region has enormous potential to improve the situation through a concerted regional approach, which is what the SPAW Protocol offers to the region.
11. Minister Joan P.E. Theodora-Brewster welcomed the delegates and observers in the name of her Government. She noted that interest in biodiversity had given rise to research into why it existed and why it had been lost. This is particularly important for the Netherlands Antilles as they show a high biodiversity both on land and in the water, which is relevant for the socio-economic, environmental and political arenas. She went on to say that tourism has a major economic role in the Wider Caribbean Region and that its benefits can be very important in the short-term. However, the long-term value of natural resources is greater: providing food , a stable climate, clean water and pharmaceutical products.
12. She noted that species are disappearing at higher rates then ever and that this is irreversible, therefore biodiversity conservation in this region is mandatory.
13. The Minister asked the Meeting to keep working on the technical aspects of biodiversity conservation in the region, but also to remember that poverty and inequity are the underlying causes of the loss of biodiversity. This loss is exacerbated by lack of clean water and proper sanitation which also affects poorer

communities. Vulnerability to extreme events such as floods and landslides such as those which occurred in Venezuela four years ago or the hurricanes that hit the islands in the last few years, are other aspects of these issues. She reminded the Meeting that actions in one country can now affect the lives of many in other countries and that this was even more important now given the current globalisation process now happening.

14. She also noted that countries with the richest biological ecosystems have the highest number of poor people because of the conversion to the world economic model such as globalisation. For equity, it is very important to develop policies to keep resources in their countries of origin, and to find better ways to use resources in a manner that is ecologically prudent, economically feasible, and based on social justice.
15. Minister Joan P.E. Theodora-Brewster reiterated her Government's support to the CEP and the SPAW Protocol and wished the participants success in the deliberations of the extensive agenda. (The full speech of the Minister is attached as Annex VII to this report.)

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

16. The Meeting elected from among the experts the following officers of the Meeting:

Chairperson:	Mr. Paul Hoetjes	(Netherlands Antilles)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Ms. Julia Horrocks	(Barbados)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Richard Wilbur	(United States of America)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Reinaldo Estrada Estrada	(Cuba)

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

### **a) Rules of Procedure**

17. The Meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP, as contained in document UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3.

### **b) Organisation of work**

18. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. The working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.
19. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of a Working Group to draft the Recommendations of the Meeting, as established by the Chairperson. Simultaneous interpretation in the working languages was available for the plenary sessions but not for the Working Group.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

20. The Meeting was invited to adopt the agenda of the Meeting as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/1. The agenda was adopted as presented and as reflected in Annex I to this Report. During the adoption of the agenda, the Government of the United States of America asked to make a presentation to update the Meeting on the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Initiative, under Agenda Item 9 on the draft Workplan of SPAW for 2004-2005 to which the Meeting agreed.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE SPAW COP1 AND COP2 AND OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF STAC**

21. The Chairman invited the Secretariat to present the “Status of Implementation of the Decisions of the SPAW COP1 and COP2 and the Recommendations of the First Meeting of STAC”, UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.3. In her presentation, the representative of the Secretariat highlighted the main areas of progress in the implementation of these decisions, as well as the areas that needed further work by the Contracting Parties, the STAC, the Secretariat and others. Areas of progress include: a) the *ad hoc* working group’s work on the review of the criteria for the listing of species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol, the final report of which was presented to the Meeting; b) the support from the Government of France to make the SPAW/RAC operational effective 1 January 2003; c) increased partnerships and strategic alliances with various partners that has improved delivery; d) the work initiated by the SPAW/RAC in conjunction with The Island Resources Foundation, Monitor Caribbean and The Humane Society of the United States of the US Wildlife Land Trust in compiling information on the guidelines to prevent species from becoming endangered or threatened; e) the governments of Barbados and United States of America became Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol during the biennium. Areas that require action include: a) completing the review of STAC’s Rules of Procedure to conform with the Rules of Procedure under the Cartagena Convention; b) the need for governments play a more active role in the development and implementation of the SPAW Protocol and Programme; and c) the need to develop more strategic and definitive collaboration with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, such as the CBD, CITES, Ramsar and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO-WHC).
22. The Secretariat indicated that the aim of the document was also to remind the Parties of previous decisions since this will play an important role when reviewing the draft workplan for SPAW for the 2004-2005 biennium. The Secretariat closed by welcoming the input, guidance, and comments from the Meeting.

23. The delegates from the USA thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the document which they found very useful and applauded the efforts of the Secretariat in implementing the decisions of the COP and the STAC, particularly with respect to strategic partnerships, which was also an objective of the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) initiative.
24. Other delegations also acknowledged and thanked the Secretariat for the work undertaken, as well as the intersessional *ad hoc* Group for the effective review of the species criteria.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE  
REVIEW OF THE CRITERIA FOR THE LISTING OF  
SPECIES IN THE ANNEXES OF THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

25. The Coordinator of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group (also Chairman of the Meeting), presented the “Final Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group on the Review of the Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol” as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/3. The report summarises the work undertaken by the working group since its establishment following the First STAC Meeting in Havana, Cuba, 27 to 29 September 2001, and includes the proposed revised criteria for the listing of species in the Annexes.
26. During his presentation, the Coordinator of the Working Group indicated that as indicated in the Decisions of COP1 and STAC1, this was an electronic working group which included Parties and observers.
27. Using the original six criteria (a-f) as a starting point, the working group came up with ten revised criteria for the listing of species as outlined in Annex III, as appears on page 8 of document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/3. Detailed justification in the form of explanatory notes for each criterion was presented and emphasis was placed on the discussions held over the one and a half years of work by the working group and the high level of consensus reached by the participants.
28. The Coordinator noted as well the major substantive recommendations coming out of the discussions on the criteria. Particularly with regard to the scope of the Protocol. It should be decided whether or not the original criterion (c), which emphasises that listing is not limited to marine and coastal species, should be put back on the list.
29. Another recommendation was on the need to correct the text of the Protocol as included on the CEP Website to match the adopted text. The Meeting continued to provide comments on the report produced by the *ad hoc* Working Group on the revised criteria. Several delegations commended the Working Group on the effective work undertaken and gave special thanks to Mr. Paul Hoetjes, for his excellent leadership.
30. The delegate from Saint Lucia was concerned that the criteria did not include traditional ecological knowledge and asked how this could be incorporated. The

Observer from STINAPA Bonaire was also concerned that there was no mention of migratory species.

31. The Delegate from Cuba noted that it was an achievement to have reached consensus on the revised criteria and in this context, made a call to maintain the revised criteria as is, without major substantive changes. This was supported by other delegations which had participated in the Working Group.
32. The Meeting agreed to add an introduction to the revised criteria to provide context and to subsequently make only minor and or editorial changes that would not substantially alter the criteria.
33. The revised criteria with the minor changes are listed in Annex VI of this Report.
34. As more work was necessary to prepare recommendations to COP3 on this matter, the Chairman proposed that a working group be formed to discuss:
  - the next steps on the revised criteria including recommendations to the COP3;
  - the role of the SPAW/RAC;
  - Article 11(4) on the listing of the species, and
  - others
35. It was agreed that the mandate of the working group be extended to include all other recommendations emanating from the Meeting.
36. The members of the Working Group on Recommendations were: Cuba, the United States of America, Netherlands Antilles (Chairman), Conservation International, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

**AGENDA ITEM 7: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN  
AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME  
FOR THE 2002-2003 BIENNIUM**

37. The Chairman invited the Secretariat to present the status of implementation of the workplan and budget for the 2002-2003 biennium for SPAW as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/4, prepared by the Secretariat.
38. The Secretariat provided an overview of the major activities implemented and noted that since the biennium was not yet finished, many activities were ongoing. The Meeting was reminded that the current workplan and budget were first reviewed by the First STAC SPAW Meeting in Cuba in 2001, and by the Second COP SPAW Meeting in Jamaica, in 2002, and subsequently approved by the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention in Jamaica in 2002.
39. The SPAW Programme Officer presented in detail the progress made in the activities of the Programme in the areas of:
  - programme coordination;
  - strengthening the parks and protected areas network and promotion of guidelines for protected area management;

- training in protected areas and wildlife management;
  - conservation of threatened and endangered species and development and promotion of regional guidelines for wildlife management; and
  - conservation and sustainable use of major ecosystems.
40. Among the specific projects presented, the SPAW Programme Officer highlighted the importance of the coordination and promotion of the SPAW Protocol with governments, donors and other stakeholders. Inter-agency coordination and fund-raising activities were noted as major components of the Programme, which had led to the development of strategic alliances and to the development of partnerships to optimise the resources available in the region to undertake activities relevant to the objectives of the SPAW Protocol objectives and in so doing enhance SPAW Programme delivery.
41. The SPAW Programme Officer indicated that the successes of the SPAW Programme and the Protocol as largely explained by the ability of the Programme to catalyse and facilitate the initiatives of the many partners from the local to global levels. Only by combining financial resources and capabilities was it possible to have marked impacts in SPAW's various fields of action. The Secretariat mentioned some of its partners such as: the biodiversity-related convention secretariats, global and regional international organisations, NGOs and donors. These partnerships have been, *inter alia*, for the protection of biodiversity and resources (e.g. coral reefs with ICRI, ICRAN, Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project, USAID, WRI and many others), the strengthening of marine protected areas (IUCN, WCPA, CCA, TNC, etc.), and for improving the Programme's databases (with UNEP-WCMC and Monitor International).
42. Reference was made to major funds received from the alliance between USAID and the UN Foundation (for ICRAN and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef) for a total of US\$3 million, and from the Governments of the United States of America and the Netherlands Antilles for coral reef activities and the convening of this Second Meeting of STAC.
43. The Secretariat outlined the major challenges faced by the SPAW Regional Programme and by the Secretariat in the implementation of the Programme:
- the small amount of funds available for an extensive workplan and the financial situation of the Caribbean Trust Fund;
  - limited coordination capacity at CAR/RCU for the various activities;
  - the insufficient response from and participation by many governments and national agencies; and
  - coordination required with the various initiatives and programmes to avoid duplication and optimise resources.
44. The Secretariat ended by presenting the status of the budget for both 2002 and 2003, which reflected minimal contributions from the Caribbean Trust Fund, with the UN Foundation under the ICRAN Project, as the major donor. The Secretariat explained, however, that this budget did not include the in-kind contributions from several partners working on joint activities with SPAW and which are an important contribution to the Programme.

45. The ICRAN Project Manager presented the specific activities executed during the biennium in the region. After describing the project to the Meeting and identifying its main partners at the global level, he presented the objectives and activities in the Caribbean. ICRAN in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) aims at developing a strong network of demonstration sites, to increase awareness and provide education on coral reefs and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) issues, to assess the status of coral reefs, and to promote best practices within local communities and influence policy changes and action. To date, eighteen (18) countries have benefitted from its training activities and marine protected areas (MPAs) selected as demonstration sites are being strengthened in Belize, Bonaire, Mexico and Saint Lucia.
46. The Secretariat invited the representatives of three Contracting Parties to present the status of activities undertaken during the biennium in their countries with the support of the SPAW Regional Programme, namely Colombia, the Netherlands Antilles (Bonaire) and Trinidad and Tobago.
47. The Delegation of Colombia presented a report on the activities and results of the coral reef monitoring node for the Southern Caribbean in which Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela participated under the coordination of INVEMAR. The main conclusions on the status of coral reefs for that region are:
  - a majority of coral reefs have suffered major changes in the last 30 years;
  - coral reef cover has been reduced and algae have become dominant on many reefs;
  - between 20-40% of live corals are still found in the Caribbean and over 40% in the Pacific;
  - bleaching events were more frequent in the 1990's but were less severe.
48. The delegation of Colombia also spoke about the achievements and results of the National System for Coral Reef Monitoring of Colombia (SIMAC), which was also supported through the SPAW Programme.
49. The Manager of Bonaire National Marine Park, presented the activities undertaken under the demonstration site project with the support received through ICRAN. He noted that the selection of Bonaire National Marine Park as a demonstration site had been critical in increasing its management efficiency and in the park receiving greater recognition. This is particularly important as Bonaire was developing a proposal with Curaçao and Venezuela for a transboundary world heritage site to be designated under the framework of the WHC. It allowed the park to begin a mooring fee programme and to develop training activities and materials.
50. The Delegation from Trinidad and Tobago reported on the project to develop a manatee recovery plan under the framework of a regional manatee recovery management. The plan was developed by focusing on stakeholder participation, field surveys and interviews. Through the recovery plan they discovered that habitat destruction and illegal hunting for food were the main threats to the manatee population. The delegate added that the implementation of the plan had already resulted in a reduction in poaching, increased effectiveness of enforcement, and increased production of educational materials.

51. The Chairman invited the Contracting Parties and Observers to comment on the presentations. The Meeting thanked the Secretariat for having achieved so much with so few resources and expressed its appreciation for the dynamic manner in which the Secretariat implemented the Workplan. Inquiries were made as to whether the Secretariat had also coordinated with the Interamerican Convention for the Conservation of Sea Turtles and with the CITES Convention on the review of trade in the queen conch being carried out under its Significant Trade Review process. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that dialogue had indeed been initiated with the Interamerican Convention for the Conservation of Sea Turtles to find ways to collaborate and that although it was unable to attend the its First COP, the interests of SPAW were represented at that Meeting by the Chairman of the SPAW COP. With regard to CITES, the Secretariat noted that the CEP Coordinator attended the 12th COP Meeting of CITES where he expressed the SPAW Secretariat's interest in coordinating and collaborating, as appropriate with CITES, in particular on the issues of the queen conch trade review and the hawksbill turtle regional dialogue.
52. The FAO representative referred to the Secretariat's report on the linkages with FAO/WECAFC and possible areas of cooperation regarding responsible fisheries management. He noted that FAO/WECAFC was interested in cooperating with SPAW and the CEP on issues related to fisheries, as there are many commonalities between the respective workplans including the geographic coverage. Reference was made to documents which FAO had made available to the Meeting outlining a number of projects and activities that would be of interest to and complement the work of SPAW, especially with respect to fish species:
- a summary on the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC);
  - a summary Report on WECAFC's *ad hoc* working group activities (WECAFC/SAG/03/II/5); including the work on spiny lobster and queen conch fisheries management; and
  - a list of FAO Fisheries Projects and Activities in the Region (WECAFC/SAG/03II/INF.6).
53. The Delegation of Cuba provided additional information on the work in progress to prepare the region for the World Park Congress (WPC) in September 2003, as presented in the Workplan of the Secretariat. He also noted that the regional report for the Caribbean islands to be submitted at WPC was currently being drafted and invited the Contracting Parties to SPAW, Observers and NGOs to contribute to its compilation. He also made reference to the second training course on marine protected areas management to be held from 30 June to 15 July 2003 in Cuba, as the follow-up to the training, received through SPAW in the previous biennium. He also informed the Meeting about Cuba's proposal to UNESCO's Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, to add the Cuban coral reef system to the list of world heritage sites.
54. The representative from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) recommended that Contracting Parties to SPAW consider placing priority on the development of partnerships and activities around regional transboundary initiatives. She noted that the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol are indeed the only instruments available to the region under which to implement these types of initiatives, which can generate productive synergies and receive substantial financial support.

55. The Secretariat ended the discussions by once again stressing the importance of updating and using the SPAW Protocol listserve directory as it is a useful mechanism for disseminating information and creating synergies among the Parties, other governments, organisations and relevant initiatives.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: REPORT OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW/RAC) ON OPERATIONS OF THE RAC**

56. The Director of the SPAW/RAC was invited by the Chairman to present the “Report of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) on Operations of the RAC”, as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG. 25/INF.4, which covers the period since the last report presented to the Parties at the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol (Montego Bay, 6 May, 2002).
57. In his presentation, the representative of the SPAW/RAC highlighted the RAC’s overall functions and objectives and noted the progress made to date with the administrative arrangements but he noted that the RAC is still working on the definition of the legal and financial status needed to function autonomously.
58. In his report he brought the meeting up to date on the major areas of work in which the RAC had contributed to the SPAW Programme since September 2002, including reviewing and translating a number of technical documents, contributing to the update of the CaMPAM database and following-up on Recommendations 8, 9 and 10 of the First STAC Meeting in 2001. In this context, the SPAW/RAC representative made reference to the work in preparation for the regional Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) and to the activities proposed as a result of the informal consultation held at the SPAW/RAC with the Secretariat and the major donors interested in supporting this process. The results of this informal consultation were summarised by the RAC in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/CRP.2. The RAC expressed its willingness to coordinate the planned regional workshop in collaboration with the governments, the Secretariat, IFAW and the ECCN.
59. Other activities mentioned included the regional workshop tentatively planned for November 2003 on the development of the guidelines for evaluating and listing protected areas under the SPAW Protocol. He also said that there was still a lot of work to be done to compile background documents and that the RAC needed support and assistance from the Parties and relevant organisations to do this.
60. The representatives of the RAC noted that the RAC activities for 2004-2005 were contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/CRP.1.
61. The delegates and observers joined the Secretariat in acknowledging the work of the SPAW RAC since the new team took over in September 2002. The role played by the Government of France in making the RAC operational was commended by the Meeting and it requested that this support for the RAC be continued.
62. The Secretariat called upon the Parties to utilize the services of the RAC and to work in close collaboration with the Centre, and called upon the NGOs to play their part in assisting the RAC with the delivery of programme activities.

63. The Observer from the TNC suggested that in an effort to assist with the planned regional workshop to develop guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas within the SPAW Protocol, the GCFI Conference in November 2003, be used as an opportunity to collect information and inputs for the guidelines taking advantage of the MPA experts who will be present at the GCFI Conference.
64. Some delegations suggested the possibility of postponing the workshop considering the large volume of work required. The Secretariat commented that intense work would have to be undertaken and that the Workshop had to be postponed.
65. The Government of the United Kingdom offered to provide specific documentation and information to the RAC (in particular on regional and global aspects for the selection of protected areas) to assist in developing the guidelines. The ECCEA representative also offered to support the SPAW/RAC in their work and in finding linkages in the eastern Caribbean, including in the French Department of Martinique where the ECCEA is based.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM**

66. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to present the draft Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.
67. The Secretariat in making its presentation, noted that the 2004-2005 draft Workplan was prepared based on recommendations of the four ISTAC Meetings and the first STAC, the decisions of COP1 and COP2, and existing and emerging programmes and initiatives. The Workplan focuses on activities to implement the SPAW Programme, coordination with other regional programmes and organizations dealing with protected areas and wildlife, and coordination with relevant global initiatives and multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar).
68. The Workplan comprises eight programme elements (sub-programmes) including three new sub-programmes which were previously embedded in other activities of the Programme:
  - Programme Coordination;
  - Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region;
  - Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
  - Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species;
  - Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems;
  - International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) in the Wider Caribbean;
  - Training in Protected Areas and Wildlife Management; and
  - Sustainable Tourism.

69. With regard to programme coordination, a Programme Officer at CAR/RCU will continue to provide day-to-day coordination for the implementation of the programme, with assistance from the ICRAN Project Manager responsible for the relevant sub-programme, and also in conjunction with the SPAW/RAC and other partners where relevant. A major component of coordination will be to continue the fundraising efforts in collaboration with relevant governments, donors and partner organizations.
70. With respect to the activities for strengthening protected areas, the guidelines for protected areas evaluation and listing under SPAW will be completed and the protected area listing and network initiated. Increased collaboration with partners to address the issues of invasive species, support where appropriate and feasible for the nomination of additional World Heritage Sites which meet SPAW objectives, guidelines on MPA co-management effectiveness, coordination with the WCPA-Marine and NOAA Regional Coordination Plan (RCP) initiative for marine reserves, strengthening of the Marine Protected Area Network (CaMPAM), its listserve and MPA database will be undertaken.
71. With regard to other regional guidelines, the Secretariat indicated that it will continue to move the process forward to develop the guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered and assessing socio-economic impacts in protected areas.
72. With regard to species conservation efforts, the Secretariat proposes to support where relevant, the implementation and development of Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs), and manatee recovery plans, as well as to continue the development of the regional marine mammal action plan.
73. A major area of work will also involve the implementation of the Caribbean activities of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) in support of the ICRI. These activities involve tangible management actions within MPAs, capacity-building for MPA managers, the identification of critical areas for increased management action through the Reefs@Risk analysis, habitat mapping and monitoring and assessment exercises, and the sharing of information on best practices and lessons learnt through effective public education and outreach strategies.
74. The area of capacity-building remains a focus for the SPAW Programme and training programmes will continue to develop the capacity of governments and coastal zone practitioners in the management of MPAs, coastal ecosystems and priority species.
75. A number of activities are planned to promote sustainable tourism in the region. These include increased collaboration with initiatives of relevant partners such as: CTO, CAST, the OECS-ESDU and UNEP-DTIE to coordinate capacity-building exercises and continue the development of policies and strategies to mitigate the negative impact of tourism activities on the environment.
76. With regard to the proposed overall budget for SPAW, it was noted that in order to achieve the targets set in the Workplan most of the funding still has to be raised, given the financial situation of the Caribbean Trust Fund, although it was

highlighted that much could be accomplished through the strategic alliances with partners which often did not require the cash flow.

77. All delegations and observers joined the Chairman in commending the Secretariat on the Workplan presented and collectively indicated that the Workplan was ambitious but necessary.
78. The delegations expressed concern about resources, particularly financial and capacity. The Meeting also expressed satisfaction with the number of synergies being explored in the Workplan with relevant initiatives and programmes and thanked the Secretariat for being resourceful and strategic in the development of the proposed Workplan.
79. The Delegation from Cuba recommended that priority be given in the Workplan to fundraising for the activities on protected areas, including the guidelines for the listing of protected areas under SPAW. With regard to species management, it was recommended to support the development and implementation of plans for the sustainable use of species. He also welcomed the proposal to support the selection of world heritage sites which are also of relevance to SPAW.
80. The Delegate of Colombia informed the Meeting about a number of existing publications relevant to mangroves which assist in the preparation of the general diagnosis on the status of mangroves as proposed in the draft Workplan, including national reports from Colombia, and offered to make these available to the Secretariat. She also took the opportunity to note that her Government would provide the Secretariat with a proposal for consideration to assist with the development of the Rules of Procedure, not only for SPAW, but for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme.
81. The delegation from Venezuela welcomed the activity to support the nomination of world heritage sites and requested assistance for the plan for organising and regulating the use of the Isla Aves wildlife reserve, the second most important nesting site of the green sea turtles in the Caribbean, currently under development and consultation. Basic information about the activities carried out in the 158 000 hectares of open sea which include the 4 hectares of the reserve is needed to develop the plan. It should include information about fishing activities that, as far as they know, are based on Martinique, Guadeloupe, and elsewhere.
82. Therefore, the support requested by Venezuela is required to for the assessment of the activities (fishing) in the protected area, especially those carried out by other eastern Caribbean island and for zoning the reserve, especially the marine area.
83. The Delegation of the United States of America reiterated their support to the Programme, specifically, through consideration of a proposal submitted by the Secretariat for approximately US \$150,000 to support STRAPs and the development of the marine mammal action plan. They also noted that an outcome of the CITES Wider Caribbean Hawksbill Turtle Dialogue was a Protocol for monitoring index nesting and feeding sites for hawksbill turtles in the region. The USA proposed that, as part of the implementation of priority actions in national sea turtle recovery plans, the CEP takes a leading role in the implementation of this monitoring programme when supporting the implementation of the Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans

- (STRAPs). They also offered to explore support to the wildlife training activities of the Programme. With regard to the issue of addressing exemptions under Article 11 at the next COP, the USA noted that this issue should be considered after the marine mammal action plan has been developed.
84. The Delegation from the Netherlands Antilles welcomed the activities on invasive species outlined in the draft Workplan and joined others in highlighting the importance of supporting the development of transboundary heritage sites under the Programme. With regard to the activities on protected areas, they noted that tourism issues need to be considered when developing the protected area guidelines planned under the Workplan. They also highlighted the activity on rapid species assessments and urged the Secretariat and the SPAW/RAC to collaborate with the IUCN/Species Survival Commission and other relevant bodies on an accelerated assessment of marine species to contribute the updating of information on species listed in the Protocol.
  85. The Delegate from Barbados suggested that small island concerns such as global warming and impact on critical habitats be considered during programme implementation. To this end, the Secretariat could investigate opportunities to collaborate with the Climate Change Convention and the former CPACC Project. She also supported the invasive species activities and the use of the hawksbills monitoring protocols of CITES. She welcomed further collaboration with the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and urged the Secretariat to explore with the MEAs the convening of joint meetings where appropriate.
  86. The Observer from IFAW reiterated their organization's commitment to provide funding for the regional workshop of experts on the development of the marine mammal action plan, as reflected in the reports of STAC1 and COP1.
  87. The observer from the ECCEA expressed her support for the proposed Workplan and offered to assist as feasible with relevant activities. She indicated that the ECCEA represents some 30 NGOs and community conservation organizations in the region, currently engaged in projects which are of relevance to the SPAW activities which include nature and heritage tourism, environmental education and the conservation of island ecosystems, co-financed by the European Union.
  88. The context, and the development of ECCEA programme for 2004-2007 with the EU, ECCEA would like to further collaborate with the Secretariat and contribute in several ways to the 2004-2005 Workplan under the headings: Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean, Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems, and Sustainable Tourism.
  89. Additionally, the different ecosystem databases and scientific research undertaken by the ECCEA is also available to all Parties and members of the SPAW Programme.
  90. The Observer from CANARI also expressed their interest in collaborating with the Secretariat in achieving the planned activities for the sub-programmes on strengthening of MPAs, ICRAN, and sustainable tourism. CANARI is interested in collaborating with the selection of participants for training activities on resource

monitoring for management; institutional arrangements for protected areas; the development of strategies for collaboration between MPAs and fishing communities; and tourism for sustainable livelihoods.

91. Additionally, she expressed interest in the promotion of the participatory planning guidelines for natural resource managers developed by CANARI with support from UNEP-CAR/RCU, the use of lessons learned on coastal zone management and enhancing coastal livelihoods in non-MPAs, as well as the use of simple GIS tools and methodologies for developing habitat maps of MPAs.
92. CANARI can also contribute to the handbook on sustainable tourism policies and strategies to review impacts of community-based tourism experiences in the Caribbean. Information for an ongoing tourism policy development process in Grenada can also contribute to this handbook.
93. The Observer from the Humane Society of the United States, noted that HSUS, as well as several organizations represented at the Meeting, is a member of the global coalition of Species Survival Network (SSN) which includes some 70 organizations working with the CITES Convention. SSN members have a considerable interest in issues involving the conservation of wild species threatened by unsustainable trade, and its membership covers a broad range of legal, biological and conservation expertise that could be made available to both the SPAW Protocol and its Contracting Parties.
94. The Observer from Conservation International (CI) indicated that they had completed an analysis of global hotspots three years ago that showed that the Caribbean islands rank as one of the world's leading hotspots for biodiversity in terms of species endemism and threat. In response to that analysis, CI has developed a Caribbean strategy which it intends to carry out within the framework of the SPAW Protocol. The projected outcomes used to guide and measure CI's work are the protection of threatened species and the increase in and improvement of protected areas. CI will integrate these outcomes at the level of conservation corridors that aim to harmonise the conservation of biodiversity with economic and social goals of the people who live with biodiversity.
95. He noted that CI's projected outcomes regarding species and protected areas support those of the SPAW Protocol. He mentioned that CI is committed to help make the SPAW Protocol become an effective framework for conservation, and they intend to contribute their work to achieve that goal.
96. Finally, the Observer from CI suggested that the following text be included after paragraph 42 of the Workplan:  
*... "Collaboration will be explored with Conservation International (CI) to define and conserve key biodiversity areas in all biomes in the Wider Caribbean Region. Such areas will be delimited on the basis of concentrations of species of immediate concern, such as restricted-range species and those that are listed as threatened on the Red List. CI works with the IUCN Species Survival Commission in support of IUCN's Species Information Service. This collaboration aims to organize and disseminate information on threats to species and on the distribution of those threats"...*

97. The Observer from The Nature Conservancy recommended that the SPAW Secretariat take a lead role in actively promoting the creation of effective management of transboundary specially protected areas and wildlife populations considering the existence of large-scale connections of biological populations and ecosystems in the Caribbean and the capacity of UNEP-Caribbean Environment Programme to convene meetings with governmental, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, and facilitate the development of sub-regional initiatives.
98. The Nature Conservancy and its partners are conducting a biological and socio-economic conservation plan designed to promote science-based conservation planning across political boundaries throughout the Wider Caribbean Region. The assessment for the Plan will include comprehensive analyses and maps of freshwater, marine and terrestrial biodiversity and also human activities and socio-economic characteristics. It will provide technical tools designed to assist nations in meeting the requirements of SPAW and other international biodiversity conservation treaties. TNC invites broad participation and are willing to provide training and technical support and will make the database, maps and tools freely available to interested nations or stakeholders, cost free.
99. Aware of the imperative of finding effective mechanisms to promote the creation and effective management of a regional network of marine reserves in the Caribbean, the IUCN World Commission of Protected Areas-Marine, in partnership with the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration –National Ocean Service International Program, has commissioned The Nature Conservancy to develop a Regional Coordination Plan (RCP) to Advance Marine Reserves in the Caribbean as part of a 4-component initiative to enhance marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries management. The initiative includes: 1) the identification of priority themes (based on previous expert analysis and ongoing relevant initiatives); 2) the recruitment of experts to develop the RCP and select the project pre-proposals that address the priority issues; 3) the elaboration of a strategic Regional Coordination Plan including project proposals; and 4) the identification of potential donors and the delivery of the RCP with project proposals to donor organizations. Thirty three (33) experts from the Caribbean academic, conservation and fisheries resources management community (from government and non-government, and national as well as regional organizations) are involved in the RCP development and the evaluation and approval of the project proposals. The participation of this group of experts allows for the identification of opportunities for resource sharing and synergy building towards the common goal of mainstreaming marine reserves in the region. An expert workshop will be held in mid-June 2003 where experts will evaluate and select the project proposals and draft the Plan to be submitted to donor agencies. The implementation of the Plan will assist the SPAW Secretariat in their lead role to assist countries to protect specially protected areas (marine protected areas) and depleted (overfished) wildlife populations by attracting attention and providing resources to transboundary and sub-regional efforts as well as assist the IUCN's World Commission of Protected Areas to better serve its members.
100. The Regional Coordination Plan will include activities in the following priority areas: research and monitoring (biophysical and socio-economic); education and

training; effective management (sustainable financing, enforcement, community involvement in planning and management); and communication and networking.

101. The mechanism for the development of the RCP has been: use of relevant meetings, such as the 2001 GCFI Conference for preliminary discussion regarding marine reserves needs; expert consultations through electronic communications; and a regional Workshop of experts and organisations to formulate the RCP (17-18 June 2003). The aim of the Plan is to build upon and coordinate with existing relevant initiatives.
102. The representatives of the SPAW/RAC thanked the Meeting for the support and encouragement given to their work, specifically to the proposed activities for 2004 – 2005 biennium. They expressed that this, in addition to the impressive diversity of issues discussed and the quality of the debates, reinforced the commitment the RAC has made with regard to the SPAW Workplan. They however asked the STAC to identify priorities for their workplan in order to better assist with RACs delivery. In this context, it was agreed that the guidelines and workshop for the evaluation of protected areas would be the main priority for the RAC. To the extent that the required financial and technical resources are available for the remaining RAC activities, these will be implemented according to the proposed workplan.
103. As agreed during the adoption of the agenda, the delegation of the United States of America was invited to make a presentation on the WW2BW initiative and its relationship to the 2004 – 2005 Workplan of SPAW. The delegate of the USA indicated that this was a WSSD partnership initiative on integrated freshwater and marine ecosystem-based management approach. It is based on the assumption that there is limited availability of funding for projects and that progress will rely on leveraging existing funds and opportunities through the development of new partnerships. Among other objectives, WW2BW hopes to stimulate such partnerships to enhance progress towards sustainable development. The initial geographical focus of the initiative is the Wider Caribbean Region but it is expected that this will extend to other regions of the world. The initiative has identified the need for action to address problems associated with pollution or negative impacts from activities within watersheds, as well as: over-fishing, destruction or loss of important marine ecosystems, shipping and maritime transportation (such as release of ballast water, lack of port reception facilities) and tourism. It is anticipated that the initiative will be a catalyst for improving collaboration between governments, Intergovernmental Organisations, NGOs and the private sector, enhancing existing partnerships and promoting new partnerships, capacity-building and best practices.
104. A partnership conference will be a key event for the WW2BW initiative which is expected to take place in March 2004 in Miami. The arrangements and on-going activities in the preparation of this Conference includes the establishment of a Steering Committee comprising Governments, organisations, universities, NGOs, the private sector and others and four major themes have been identified (marine ecosystem based management, sustainable tourism, shipping, and integrated watershed management) and their related sub-committees;
105. Additionally, Conference Co-Chairs comprising the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), UNEP/CEP and the Government of the United States of America

have been established and consultations with the Governments of the region are taking place.

106. The objectives of the WW2BW Conference include: identify needs, gaps and the means to cover them; the required partnerships and projects; and best practices that can be replicated;
107. The Government of the USA will fund the conference as well as the participation of select country representatives. The Environmental Defence Fund, a US-based NGO, is also contributing, but additional funding is being sought for the conference and the follow-up action required. In order to provide and disseminate information regarding the development of the initiative, it has been agreed that CAR/RCU will develop a clearinghouse mechanism that will become a “one stop shop” for the Caribbean region.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS**

108. The participants of the Meeting were invited to raise other issues not covered by the preceding agenda items, but which were relevant to the scope of the Meeting.
109. The Secretariat presented, on behalf of the World Resources Institute (WRI), a brief summary of the Reefs@Risk project on watershed-based analysis of pollution and sedimentation in the Wider Caribbean Region funded and promoted through ICRAN in the Caribbean. The project aims at producing a preliminary estimate of the threat to coral reefs from land-based sources of pollution by using a model integrating original and interpreted data on the potential for erosion, the delimitation and characteristics of watersheds, river flow parameters and sediment loads at river mouths.
110. The usefulness of this model, developed for the South East Asian Seas, was demonstrated by the first results which show how marine protected area and resource managers can become more efficient when provided with accurate and up-to-date information which identifies priorities.
111. WRI intends to distribute the results of this study widely and free of cost, but asks that any organisations, institutions or individuals that can provide datasets to improve the calibration and validation phases of the project, join this partnership which is financially supported by the UN Foundation through the ICRAN Project, USAID and UNEP-CAR/RCU. Data and information on the following issues are particularly needed in order to improve the results of the model:
  - digital elevation model at high resolution (90 m);
  - data on changes of erosion rates over time (for different land-cover changes);
  - high resolution data on precipitation, including peak values and extreme events;
  - datasets on nutrient pollution; and
  - datasets for calibrating the model.
112. The Secretariat stressed that the intent of this project is to provide new information and to make its results easily accessible, and that the quality of the final version will assist in resolving the data gaps and inadequacies identified.

113. The Secretariat informed the Meeting of other initiatives in the Wider Caribbean Region that could benefit the Caribbean Environment Programme and with which coordination and collaboration could be facilitated.
114. One such initiative, backed by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), proposes that the United Nations General Assembly designate the Caribbean region as a special area for sustainable development.. The Recommendations of the ACS First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on the Caribbean Sea were summarised, including those asking for a closer collaboration with the CEP and increase support for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
115. A group of experts has met to design the Caribbean Sea Assessment. This project, also funded by the ACS, is to be carried out by the University of the West Indies (St Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago) and the Cropper Foundation. The Secretariat informed that it would facilitate coordination with other regional and global assessments, namely the Global Environment Outlook (UNEP-GEO) Process and the Global International Water Assessment (GIWA).
116. The last initiative reported on was the Biodiversity Information for the Caribbean carried out by the Expert Centre on Taxonomic Identifications (ETI), based in the Netherlands. Its objectives are to increase access to and awareness of information on biodiversity, and to heighten the capacity and ability to use it. The Secretariat will facilitate coordination with other similar initiatives, (e.g. with the Interamerican Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and the Convention on Biological Diversity).
117. The Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme announced that Mr. Timothy J. Kasten had left his position as AMEP Programme Officer at the Secretariat. Mr. Kasten was promoted to the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) where it is expected he will continue his support for the Caribbean Environment Programme. The CAR/RCU has begun the recruitment process for the vacant post, and until the post of Programme Officer is filled, a Consultant will be hired for a of six month period to ensure continuity in programme coordination.
118. The Secretariat reminded the Meeting about the situation of the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) and that requested the participants urge their Governments to contribute in a timely manner to the Fund. The Governments were also urged to submit offers to host the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, scheduled for the first semester of 2004. As per Decision 1 of the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting, the costs incurred by the host country can be credited to its arrears with the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF). Similarly, Member States of the Caribbean Environment Programme were asked to submit offers to host the Third STAC SPAW Meeting to be held in 2005.
119. Finally, the Coordinator attributed most of the success of the SPAW Regional Programme to the close collaboration and coordination that exists with the NGOs. He advocated expanding these to include the private sector, particularly in the field of environmental education.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

120. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the draft Report of the Meeting (document UNEP(DEC)CAR WG.25/6), and The Meeting adopted the Report, with the appropriate report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

121. In his closing remarks, the Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Paul Hoetjes, thanked the Parties, member governments and organizations for their active participation and spirit of cooperation throughout the deliberations. He also thanked all members of his Government and relevant organizations in Curaçao who made the Meeting possible, including the Lions Dive Hotel which had provided support and excellent facilities. He noted that his government should consider this opportunity as an honor, given that they recognized the SPAW Protocol as the most important treaty for biodiversity conservation at the regional level and one of the most important worldwide. He also thanked the Secretariat for working very closely with his Government for the successful convening and execution of the Meeting.
122. The Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme, Mr. Nelson Andrade, thanked the Government of the Netherlands Antilles for its tremendous contribution in the convening of the Meeting and highlighted in particular, the role of the Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Paul Hoetjes. Mr. Andrade also thanked all the Parties and participants, for their productive deliberations and the work of all those involved in making the Meeting possible, including the local support team, the Secretariat and the interpreters and translators.
123. The Programme Officer for the SPAW Programme and Protocol, Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury, joined the Coordinator in thanking the host government and its entire team. She thanked the governments and organisations present for the encouragement and support given to the work of the Secretariat and urged all Parties to continue supporting the SPAW Programme and Protocol at the Programme meetings, and during the intersessional period, as well as under the framework of other regional and global initiatives and treaties. She added that only with the support of all governments and partner organizations, could the objectives of the SPAW Protocol be fulfilled.
124. On behalf of the NGOs present, Mr. Milton Kaufmann noted that the Caribbean wildlife and protected areas programmes are greatly supported and strengthened by the legal foundation of the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW and other Protocols, as well as by the wonderful synergy linking the RCU, the Governments and the NGOs. He stated on behalf of the NGOs that they treasured the opportunity to participate in SPAW meetings and hoped that their interventions, sometimes passionate, did not take an inappropriate amount of time.
125. Mr. Kaufmann enthusiastically thanked the Chairman, Mr. Paul Hoetjes, for his skillful leadership of the highly successful Meeting. He also expressed his

appreciation for the gracious hospitality received from the Netherlands Antilles for during his stay.

126. The Observer from the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), thanked the Parties and the Secretariat for the opportunity to participate at the Meeting and congratulated them for their productive work. She reiterated the support of her organization to the SPAW Programme and thanked the Secretariat for endorsing the public education materials produced by WDCS in support of SPAW.
127. The Delegate from the Government of Colombia, on behalf of the Parties, also thanked the Government of the Netherlands Antilles and the Secretariat for the well organized and productive Meeting. She recognized the excellent work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group during the intersessional period and thanked the Chairman for his outstanding leadership. She reiterated the support of her Government to the challenge of implementing the SPAW Workplan and urged all Parties and Governments to actively support the Protocol and its Regional Programme at all levels.
128. The Meeting was closed at 4:00pm, on Friday, 6 June 2003, by the Chairman and the Secretariat.



**ANNEX I: AGENDA**



## AGENDA

### **Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region**

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. Status of Implementation of the Decisions of the SPA COP1 and COP2 and of the Recommendations of the First Meeting of STAC
6. Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group on the review of the criteria for the listing of species in the Annexes of the SPA Protocol.
7. Status of implementation of the Workplan and Budget of the SPA Regional Programme for the 2002-2003 biennium.
8. Report of the Regional Activity Centre for SPA (SPA/RAC) on operations of the RAC.
9. Workplan and Budget of the SPA Regional Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium.
10. Other Business.
11. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting.
12. Closure of the Meeting.



**ANNEX II: RECOMMENDATIONS**



## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

### **The Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee:**

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

**Having reviewed** the Status of Implementation of the Decisions of the SPAW COP1 and COP2 and of the Recommendations of the First Meeting of STAC (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.3);

**Taking note** of the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2002-2003 biennium (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/4);

**Having reviewed** the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Review of the Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/3);

**Having reviewed** the Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2004-2005 Biennium (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5); and the Report of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPA)W/RAC) on the Operations of the RAC (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.4);

### **RECOMMENDATION I**

**Noting** the Decision of COP2 concerning the work of the Ad hoc Working Group on criteria to list species in the SPAW Annexes;

**Having reviewed** and revised the proposed criteria as drafted in the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/3;

**Recommends that:**

- 1) COP3 of the SPAW Protocol adopt the criteria for listing species in the Annexes as presented in Annex VI of this Report;
- 2) These criteria may be reviewed and updated if required.

## RECOMMENDATION II

**Taking note** of Article 11, Paragraph 4, and Article 19, Paragraph 3, of the SPAW Protocol;

**Having reviewed** the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Review of the Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/3);

**Recommends that,**

- 1) A procedure for the submission and approval of nominations of species for inclusion in or deletion from Annexes I, II and III be developed and adopted.
- 2) The procedure to be adopted by the COP should include the following:
  - a) Parties intending to nominate a species for inclusion in or deletion from the Annexes are responsible for preparing appropriate and sufficient supporting documentation. However, Parties may request that the SPAW/RAC assist in the preparation of documentation by providing contacts of relevant experts and organizations for advice and technical assistance, as well as by providing access to literature;
  - b) Supporting documentation should follow the outline in Article 19 par. 3, together with information demonstrating the applicability of the appropriate SPAW listing criteria as adopted by the Conference of the Parties. It should include an appropriate bibliography. The nominating Party may submit draft documentation for impartial review. The SPAW/RAC may be able to suggest suitable reviewers;
  - c) The final text of the supporting documentation must be submitted to the SPAW Secretariat at least four months before the STAC Meeting at which the nomination will be considered, unless the Secretariat sets an alternate deadline;
  - d) After the deadline, the Secretariat shall inform the Parties of the list of species to be considered at the forthcoming STAC Meeting. The Secretariat shall, as soon as possible after the deadline, arrange for the translation of the supporting documentation into the official languages of the Protocol. After translation, the supporting documentation shall be circulated to the Contracting Parties according to the protocol established for documents distribution by the Secretariat and should be subsequently publicized through the website;
  - e) Where possible, written comments on proposed nominations received by the Secretariat from Parties and Observers should be made available to the Meeting of the STAC;
  - f) The STAC may, in accordance with Article 11 paragraph 4(b), recommend that the nomination be adopted or rejected, or that further consideration be made conditional on the presentation of additional scientific and technical information;

- g) In the last case, the Conference of the Parties may assess, as part of its review of the nomination, the extent to which any conditions set by the STAC have been met.

### **RECOMMENDATION III**

**Having reviewed** the Status of Implementation of the Decisions of the SPAW COP1 and COP2 and of the Recommendations of the First Meeting of STAC ((UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.3), and the Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5);

**Recommends that,**

- 1) In the course of carrying out sub-programme (c) of the SPAW Workplan for the 2004-2005 biennium, the SPAW/RAC, in conjunction with the CAR/RCU, governments and relevant partners, should continue to develop the draft guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered with extinction. The SPAW/RAC should circulate the draft paper for review by the members of the STAC and interested parties, and incorporate appropriate comments in an updated draft text to be submitted to COP3 for review and further action.

#### **RECOMMENDATION IV**

**Having reviewed** the Status of Implementation of the Decisions of the SPAW COP1 and COP2 and of the Recommendations of the First Meeting of STAC ((UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.3) and the Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5);

**Recommends that,**

- 1) Maximum priority be given to initiate as soon as possible, the process for the convening of the Workshop for the Development of the Guidelines on the Evaluation and Listing of Protected Areas by the SPAW/RAC and the Secretariat. To this end, a consultation process, coordinated by the SPAW/RAC, should be undertaken through the SPAW listserv among Governments and the parties involved, in order to develop the draft Guidelines to be discussed during the Workshop and which will be forwarded to the COP3 for its consideration and further action.
- 2) If possible, the Workshop should be convened as planned in November 2003 but no later than the first quarter of 2004.

## **RECOMMENDATION V**

**Having reviewed** the Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium contained in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.

**Recommends that:**

- 1) The proposed Workplan and Budget for 2004-2005 biennium be revised according to the comments and recommendations provided at this Meeting and forwarded to the Third Meeting of the Parties to SPAW (COP3) and Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, for their consideration and approval.



**ANNEX III: LIST OF DOCUMENTS**



## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

### Working Documents

UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/3	Final Report of the <i>ad hoc</i> Working Group on the Review of the Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/4	Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2002-2003 Biennium
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5	Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2004-2005 Biennium
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6	Report of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region

### Information Documents

UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.3	Status of Implementation of the Decisions of the SPAW COP1 and COP2 and of the Recommendations of the First Meeting of STAC
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.4	Report of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) on Operations of the RAC
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.5	Directory of Members of SPAW Protocol listserve (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.21/INF.3	Report of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region. (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 May 2002)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/6	Priorities for implementation following the entry into force of the Protocol: responsibilities for the Contracting Parties, for the STAC and for the Secretariat
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.22/6	Draft workplan and budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2002-2003
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/9/Rev.1	Concept Paper for Establishing and Implementing Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Caribbean Environment Programme

**Conference Room Papers**

UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/CRP.1	Workplan for the SPAW Regional Activity Centre for the 2004-2005 Biennium (English and French only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/CRP.2	Proposed Activities for Consideration in the Development of the SPAW Marine Mammal Action Plan (English and Spanish only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/CRP.3	Watershed-Based Analysis of Pollution and Sedimentation for the Wider Caribbean (English only)

**Reference Documents**

UNFF/COCATRAM, 2003	Reunión de Expertos Designados por los Gobiernos sobre la Transferencia de Tecnologías Ecológicamente Racionales para el Manejo Sostenible de los Ecosistemas de Manglar en América Latina y el Gran Caribe. (Managua, Nicaragua, 3 al 5 de marzo de 2003). (Spanish only)
UNEP/GC.22/INF/14	Linkages among and support to environmental and environmental-related conventions. Note by the Executive Director. Nairobi, 3-7 February 2003 (English only)
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**ANNEX IV: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**



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CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPAW/RAC)/  
SECRÉTARIAT DU CENTRE DES ACTIVITES REGIONAL POUR LE PROTOCOLE  
RELATIF AUX ZONES ET A LA VIE SAUVAGE SPECIALMENTE PROTEGEES  
(SPAW/RAC)/  
SECRETARÍA DEL CENTRO DE ACTIVIDAD REGIONAL PARA EL PROTOCOLO SOBRE  
LAS AREAS Y FLORA Y FAUNA SILVESTRES ESPECIALMENTE PROTEGIDAS  
(SPAW/RAC)**

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**ANNEX V: BUDGET FOR 2004-2005 (TABLE)**



Activity	2004				2005			
	Budgeted		Total Cost	Required Balance	Budgeted		Total Cost	Required Balance
	CTF	Other Contributions			CTF	Other Contributions		
<b>SPAW</b>								
3.1								
a)Co-ordination (salary costs covered by OCCC)								
Consultants	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	0
Assist Governments with legislation	0	0	20,000	20,000	0	0	30,000	30,000
3.2								
b) Strengthening of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region	15,000	50,000	150,000	85,000	15,000	50,000	150,000	85,000
3.3.								
c) Development of guidelines for protected areas & wildlife*	10,000	70,000	120,000	40,000	10,000	20,000	100,000	70,000
3.4								
d) Conservation of threatened and endangered species*	10,000	40,000	100,000	50,000	10,000	20,000	100,000	70,000
3.5								
e) Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems	20,000	0	70,000	50,000	20,000	0	70,000	50,000

Activity	2004				2005			
	Budgeted		Total Cost	Required Balance	Budgeted		Total Cost	Required Balance
	CTF	Other Contributions			CTF	Other Contributions		
3.6								
f) ICRAN**	20,000	250,000	370,000	100,000	20,000	300,000	420,000	100,000
3.7								
g) Training in protected areas management***	10,000	40,000	80,000	30,000	10,000	40,000	80,000	30,000
3.8								
h) Sustainable tourism**	20,000	200,000	270,000	50,000	20,000	200,000	270,000	50,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	115,000	650,000	1,190,000	425,000	115,000	630,000	1,230,000	485,000
<b>Programme Support costs 13% (amount subject to change based on source of funds)</b>	14,950	84,500	154,700	55,250	14,950	81,900	159,900	63,050
<b>TOTAL SPAW</b>	129,950	734,500	1,344,700	480,250	129,950	711,900	1,389,900	548,050

OCCC: Overall Coordination and Common Costs of the Caribbean Environment Programme

\* “Other Contributions” in both years reflect funds expected from US Government under Oceans, Environment and Science Initiative

\*\* “Other contributions” in both years are from the UN Foundation, USAID and other sources for ICRAN activities

\*\*\* “Other Contributions” in both years are from ICRAN Action Phase

**ANNEX VI: REVISED CRITERIA FOR THE LISTING OF SPECIES  
IN THE ANNEXES OF THE SPAW PROTOCOL**



## **Revised Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol**

Article 21 of the SPAW Protocol requires the establishment of common guidelines and criteria, for *inter alia*, the identification and selection of protected species to be listed on Annexes I, II and III of the Protocol. The guidelines and criteria given below are for this purpose and should be applied in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol, in particular the definitions in Article 1 (f) on “endangered species” and (g) “threatened species”.

1. For the purpose of the species proposed for all three annexes, the scientific evaluation of the threatened or endangered status of the proposed species is to be based on the following factors: size of populations, evidence of decline, restrictions on its range of distribution, degree of population fragmentation, biology and behavior of the species, other conditions clearly increasing the vulnerability of the species, and the importance of the species to the maintenance of fragile or vulnerable ecosystems and habitats.
2. When evaluation of the factors enumerated above clearly indicates that a species is threatened or endangered, the lack of full scientific certainty about the exact status of the species is not to prevent the listing of the species on the appropriate annex.
3. With particular reference to listing in Annex III, the levels and patterns of use and the success of national management programmes should be taken into account
4. When compiling a case for adding a species to the Annexes, application of the IUCN criteria in a regional (Caribbean) context will be helpful if sufficient data are available. The evaluation should, in any case, use best available information, and expertise, including traditional ecological knowledge.
5. The evaluation of a species is also to be based on whether it is, or is likely to be, the subject of local or international trade, and whether the international trade of the species under consideration is regulated under CITES or other instruments;
6. The evaluation of the desirability of listing a species in one of the annexes should be based on the importance and usefulness of regional cooperative efforts on the protection and recovery of the species;
7. Given the regional, co-operative nature of the SPAW Protocol, it is generally not considered appropriate to include in the lists species which are endemic to a single country, these species being more appropriate for protected status under Article 10 of the Protocol. Any Contracting Party may however, request the inclusion on the lists of a species that is endemic to its territory, if regional cooperation is clearly important for its recovery.
8. The listing of a taxonomic unit covers all the lower taxa within that unit. The lists should be prepared at the level of species; the listing of species is taken to include all sub-species and as a general rule, sub-species are not recommended for separate listing. Exceptionally, higher taxa can be utilized in listing when there are reasonable indications that the lower taxa are similarly justified in being listed, or to address problems of misidentification caused by species of similar appearance. In the case of Annex III, higher taxa can also be used to simplify the list.

9. When considering species for listing, the status of the population at the regional level should be the starting point for its evaluation. Given the regional, cooperative nature of the SPAW Protocol, as a general rule, sub-populations are not recommended for separate listing unless this would benefit the recovery of the subpopulation and the total population.
10. Although ecosystems are best protected by measures focused on the system as a whole, species essential to the maintenance of such fragile and vulnerable ecosystems/habitats, as mangrove ecosystems, seagrass beds and coral reefs, may be listed if the listing of such species is felt to be an "appropriate measure to ensure the protection and recovery" of such ecosystems/habitats where they occur, according to the terms of Article 11 (1) (c) of the Protocol.

**ANNEX VII: OPENING REMARKS OF MRS. JOAN P.E. THEODORA-  
BREWSTER, MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NETHERLANDS ANTILLES**





**NETHERLANDS ANTILLES**

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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Topic: **Speech at the occasion of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention).**

Venue: Breezes Hotel, Curaçao.  
Date: Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003.  
Time: xx.00 – xx.00 hours.  
Speaker: Mrs. Drs. J. Theodora - Brewster, Minister of Public health & Social Development of the Netherlands Antilles.

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Honourable, ..... , Honourable members of the organizing committee, Ladies and Gentlemen [*relevante aanhef*],

On behalf of the Government and Citizens of the Netherlands Antilles, I welcome you to our country and the Island of Curaçao in particular.

It is with pleasure that our Government has chosen to hosts this important event, and it is an honour for me as Minister of Public Health and Social Development to do the official opening of your “Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife”.

The growing interest for the conservation of the “biodiversity” has led to efforts to define and explore why it exists and how it is lost. The expressions of ecologists and conservationists generally refer to the richness in species. But as I understood there is also diversity within species which is a basic source for evolution and diversity also is evident within ecosystems and geographical areas.

Our region consists of countries and territories, continental mainland, large and small islands with a high biological diversity in both land and in the sea.

Even within our country, the Netherlands Antilles a high diversity becomes evident between the five islands in biological, geographical and even in political sense.

The growing interest for the biodiversity is due to the richness in plants and animal, which value cannot be estimated; it is our asset of nature; result of evolution, in other words, the result of a historical process that has occurred over centuries and cannot be repeated.

For this reason the loss of biodiversity by simplification of the ecosystems and in recent years by the introduction of toxic products by direct and indirect activities of

mankind is non-reversible.

Tourism is a mayor economical activity in most of the countries in the wider Caribbean region and many of us are able to obtain economical benefits from our natural assets in the short term, but the value of nature in the long term is far higher.

Although nature definitely has its own intrinsic values, the human species and its communities depend completely on the many benefits that nature and its ecosystems provide. These benefits can be in the form of the provision of food, clean water, a stable climate, and even raw materials for medicines, and then a lot more.

Ecosystems modified by mankind do not necessarily lose their productivity but nearly in all cases they loose their biodiversity. Mankind throughout the centuries has always needed changes while at the same time resisting changes. This contradiction became evident during the industrial civilization which led to the unmerciful use of nature and is now of growing concern in view of the loss of biodiversity.

Along the history of life many new species have appeared while others were extinguished. In this continue process of transformation the biodiversity has increased although sometimes interrupted or even temporarily reduced in unfavourable times. During the last ten centuries the animal and vegetal diversity which we enjoy today as a result of thousands of years of evolution is suffering a devastating reduction as a result of human activity. Species disappear at a high speed and this is totally non-reversible.

Mankind should be able to regulate its activities and growths and hence obtain the satisfactions it desires without deteriorating the most important achievement of biological evolution which is "biodiversity".

So ladies and gentlemen management of our nature and our biodiversity in a sustainable manner is mandatory.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is not my intention to endure on the technical aspect of your conference. After all you are the experts. You are the regional advisory body for policy development in this matter.

So permit me to conclude by pointing out a matter of concern which, as Minister of Public Health and Social Development, I think is of crucial importance for policy development in the area of conservation of our biodiversity. It is not an issue that deals directly with the topics that you will be discussing during the coming days, but nevertheless affects the effects and outcomes of your discussions.

It is the issue that deals with poverty and inequity.

The world's biggest killer and greatest cause of ill health and suffering across the globe is poverty.

Poverty and inequity is the main reason why clean water and sanitation is not provided.

The region has been experiencing an increasing number of natural disasters over the years.

The biggest one experienced in ages is the one four years ago on the north cost of Venezuela, "estado Vargas", causing the overflowing of thousands of acres of land,

an unaccounted number of deaths, and a large number of people who became homeless.

It is well known that poverty and inequity is the underlying cause of increased impact of disasters on communities, the environment and the economy.

These have been our experience in the windward islands of the Netherlands Antilles with the devastating hurricanes, Luis and Mitch and Georges.

There is a firm belief amongst economists that poor people as well as poor communities are more worried about their present than their future. In other words, the poor discount their future.

This is exactly what is happening in global environmental negotiations.

Consumption and production systems, have now reached a level of magnitude, that what happens in one country can have a serious impact on another one, even affect the whole world.

Global warming poses precisely such a problem. Burning of fuels is increasing the concentration of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere. And this gas has an ability to trap the solar heat and slowly raise the temperature of the world's atmosphere.

Nobody really knows what will be the exact effects of global warming.

But it is argued that the weather could tend towards the extremes, leading to greater number of episodes of heavy rainfalls and hence floods.

Greater number of episodes of extreme dryness and hence droughts; more cyclones and what not.

In the countries with the richest biological ecosystems the largest number of poor people have been registered. This because of an economical model that excludes, violates and destroys our production capacity.

It is widely acknowledged today by leading economists in the world that the benefits of the current world economy, characterized under the slogan of "globalization" gives tangible benefits to less than 20% of the population while excluding in a progressive manner the remaining 80%.

The control of the markets and of the industrial parks destroys the local production capacity, while the external debts and the current monetary policies in the region only point out to solutions on very short term.

The terms of international market exchange are increasingly unfavourable for systems based on elements like biodiversity.

Today there are pretensions to take away the treasures of biodiversity by privatizations and handing them over to rich countries. We should develop policies that maintain the resources in the countries of origin. It is not a matter of rejection but just a matter of having those who produce the fruits to enjoy them also.

We have to find ways to make use of our resources in a manner that is ecologically prudent, economically feasible, and based on social justice. We are all part of nature, not the owner.

That is why our government regards the efforts of the Caribbean Environmental

Programme and its legal instruments as an important factor in the development of the region and of each individual country in our region. That is why we have supported it for the last two decades and that is why we are proud for you to have your meeting in our country and on our island.

Your agenda is extensive, with the discussion on the criteria for listing species, the development of guidelines for protected areas and particularly species management, a marine mammal action plan, the coral reef action network and so much more.

So do not let me hold you from your work. I just want to say:

Welcome, welcome – Bon Bini na nos dushi Korsou.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention, and wish you hereby, fruitful deliberations.

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