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

Cayenne, French Guiana, 13 March 2017

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**



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## Acronyms

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (Pollution Sub-programme)
BEST Initiative	The Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas
CABI	CAB International (formerly Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau)
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
Cariwet	Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative
CAR/RCU	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBF	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CCI	Caribbean Challenge Initiative
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CFMC	Caribbean Fishery Management Council
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLME <sup>+</sup>	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties
CREHO	Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
DSS	Decision Support System
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
ECMMAN	Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network
ECRE	Bluefinance Economics for Coral Reef Ecosystems
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IFRECOR	French Initiative for Coral Reefs
IOCARIBE	Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing
IWC	International Whaling Commission
LBS	Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Pollution
LME	Large Marine Ecosystems
MamaCocoSea	Marine Mammal Conservation Corridor South East America
MARFund	Mesoamerican Reef Fund
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MMA	Marine Managed Area
MMAP	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
MMAP-PA	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region's Priority Actions: Five Year Plan
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation

MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NAHW-SSP	North Atlantic Humpback Whale Sister Sanctuary Program
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OAS	Organisation of American States
OCCC	Overall Coordination and Common Costs
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PA	Protected Area
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RCDR	Reef Check Dominican Republic
RFB	Regional Fisheries Bodies
RLC	Regional Lionfish Committee
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SCSCB	BirdsCaribbean (formerly Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
sLMR	Shared Living Marine Resources
SOCAR	State of the Convention Area Report for the Wider Caribbean Region
SPAW	Specialty Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
STRAP	Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA-2	Second session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WG	Working Group
WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network



## INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region held in Kingston, 15 to 18 January 1990, adopted the SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 23 of the SPAW Protocol provided for the convening and functioning of the Meetings of the Parties and called for these ordinary Meetings to be held in conjunction with the Ordinary Meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Convention. In light of the above, this Meeting was convened by UN Environment's Caribbean Environment Programme (UN Environment-CEP), in Cayenne, French Guiana on 13 March 2017, preceding the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean, Cayenne, French Guiana, 15-17 March, 2017.
2. The main objectives of this Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP9) to the SPAW Protocol were to:
  - **Review** and **adopt** the Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC7) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Miami, Florida, 2- 4 November 2016;
  - **Review** and **approve** the 2017-2018 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Sub-programme for subsequent approval by the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;
  - **Review** and **approve** the reports on protected areas presented by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol;
  - **Review** and **adopt** the SPAW STAC7 recommendations on the species proposed for listing under the SPAW Protocol; and
  - **Review and adopt** the Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group.
3. The sixteen Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol were invited to nominate their respective representatives to participate in the Meeting. Representatives of governments that are Non-Contracting Parties and of international, regional, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations were also invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. The Provisional List of Participants is included in Annex IV of this report.

## AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Meeting was opened by the Secretariat on Monday, 13 March 2017, at 9:09 a.m., in Cayenne, French Guiana by Ms Monica Borobia-Hill, Consultant and Acting Programme Officer for the SPAW Sub-programme.
5. Opening remarks were provided by the Préfet of French Guiana, Mr Martin Jaegaer, who on behalf of the French Government, welcomed all participants and delegates and thanked them for their presence at the Meeting in French Guiana. He noted the importance of the management and protection of the natural environment, especially the marine environment which played a very important role in activities such as fishing and tourism. It also provided indirect benefits for healthy ecosystems by providing environmental resilience against the impacts of climate change. He spoke to the relevance of critical marine species such as sea turtles which traversed borders, and the need for all nations to join forces to protect the very unique resources of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR).
6. In his closing remarks, he reminded the Meeting about the relevance of the Cartagena Convention and expressed pleasure that French Guiana was able to host the COP and IGM for the first time. He hoped that it would be possible for participants to explore the country's unique environment.

7. This was followed by welcome remarks from Ms Lorna Inniss, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) as Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention. She welcomed all in attendance and thanked the Government of France for hosting the Meeting and providing financial support. She acknowledged the French Government's consistent funding of the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe since 2000, which provided crucial support to the Secretariat and had been instrumental in implementing the SPAW Sub-programme, along with the various valued partners regionally and internationally. She highlighted the role of the SPAW Protocol in the region, especially in strengthening marine protected areas (MPAs), the conservation of critical species, migratory birds and marine mammals, and also in addressing emerging issues such as the response to the increasing volume of *Sargassum* affecting coastal areas in the WCR.
8. She noted the strong role of the regional programme in achieving sustainable development across the WCR, particularly as it related to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* which specifically calls for the conservation of at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas by 2020 under Target 14.5. She expressed confidence that the SPAW Sub-programme would continue to assist Parties in achieving this target, while emphasizing the need for political and financial commitments to enhance and sustain this successful work. She encouraged Parties to make their timely contributions and to also assist the Secretariat with fundraising efforts considering that the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) had not been in a position to support SPAW programme activities for the last two (2) biennia. She added that this had posed serious limitations in delivering the work programme developed by the Parties.
9. In closing, Ms Inniss commended the SPAW Programme Officer Mrs Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri, for her over 25 years of dedicated and excellent service to the Secretariat after having made the decision to embark on early retirement in March 2017. Mrs Vanzella-Khouri was not present at the Meeting, but the Secretariat extended congratulations for the successful work she conducted over the years which resulted in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Fred Packard Award in late 2016. Ms Inniss officially informed the Meeting that Ms Borobia-Hill had joined the SPAW Sub-Programme as a temporary Consultant, and that the SPAW Programme Officer position was open for applications. She encouraged interest in the position from within the region.
10. A parting message via a brief video recording from Ms. Vanzella-Khouri was then presented to the Meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

### 2.1 Rules of Procedure

11. 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) (UN Environment, 2012) were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, for the conduct of the Meeting.

### 2.2 Election of Officers

12. The Meeting was invited to elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol: the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons and the Rapporteur for the conduct of the Meeting.

Chairperson: Denis Girou (France)  
 First Vice-Chairperson: Thomas Nelson (St. Lucia)  
 Second Vice-Chairperson: Alona Sankar (Guyana)  
 Rapporteur: Erica Nunez (USA)

### 2.3 Organisation of Work

13. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided for the Meeting, and the Working Documents were available in all the working languages. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting was presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/INF.1 and is included in Annex III of this report.



14. The Secretariat proposed to convene the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of working groups if necessary, which would be established by the Chairperson. No simultaneous interpretation would be available for the working groups. Participants were reminded that, given the length of the Meeting, breaking into working groups might not be feasible. Participants were therefore expected to come prepared, having reviewed all working documents as appropriate, in order to provide concrete inputs at the time of discussion.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

15. The Meeting was invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda, 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 Region. The Provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat was presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/1 and is included in Annex I of this report.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR 2015-2016, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW-RAC) IN GUADELOUPE**

16. The Secretariat presented the Status of Activities of the SPAW Sub-programme for 2015-2016 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3). During the presentation the Secretariat also briefly referred to the following documents on major activities of SPAW:
- Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe with regard to RAC operations and budget for the period 2015-2016(UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4);
  - Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities, including the on-going Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5);
  - Evaluation of CaMPAM activities (2010-2015) and recommendations for improvement (UNEP WG.38/INF.6);
  - Marine mammals materials in support of SPAW's Marine Mammal Action Plan (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.10, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.11, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.13, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.16 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.18 );
  - The GCRMN-Caribbean network and guidelines (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.17 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/ INF.4);
  - The *Sargassum* influx platform and factsheets (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.9, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.12, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.14 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.15); and
  - The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and the SPAW Sub-programme (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7).
17. Ms Borobia-Hill highlighted the primary objectives of the SPAW Sub-programme to: i) support implementation of specific SPAW Protocol provisions as per COP decisions, and ii) conserve key habitats and species for the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources and respond to marine biodiversity issues, in alignment with international agendas. She indicated the specific activities of the 2015-2016 Workplan which fell under five (5) major programme elements (sub-programmes), implemented in close collaboration and partnership with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe:
- a) Programme Coordination
  - b) Strengthening of Protected Areas (including CaMPAM activities consisting also of the ECMMAN and EBM projects)
  - c) Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management (including listing of protected areas and their cooperation programme, and the format for species exemptions)
  - d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered species (which included marine mammals, birds, and impacts of invasive species such as the lion fish)

- e) Conservation and Sustainable use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including coral reefs, the control of the *Sargassum* influx, and implementation of the CLME+ project)
18. She provided a summary on staffing and administration outlining the core staff for the SPAW Sub-programme in Kingston, which consisted of a Programme Officer and Programme Assistant, with further support through internships and the CaMPAM Coordinator (Consultant). Additional support from the SPAW-RAC consisted of a Director (newly recruited), a Project Officer and an Administrator (funded by the French Government), and short-term staff consisting of two (2) Project Managers and an Administrative Assistant (through project funding).
19. Ms Borobia-Hill noted that progress was made on programme coordination was facilitated through coordination and/or collaboration with -
- Working groups (WGs) on listing of species and protected areas (PAs), and exemptions guidelines in cooperation with SPAW-RAC and experts;
  - Project partners for delivery of workplan activities (e.g. GCFI, TNC, Birds Caribbean, GCRMN/ICRI);
  - Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative, Ramsar, CITES and UNODC on illegal trade enforcement, and CMS towards regional capacity building;
  - Pollution Sub-programme on the GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem ( GEF CLME+ project);
  - UN Environment -Ecosystems Division, ROLAC, GPA, and GEF on biodiversity; and
  - Memorandum of Cooperation's (MoCs) with the Sargasso Sea Commission and International Whaling Commission (IWC) (finalised for signature).
20. She highlighted that general outputs accomplished under coordination included the convening of the SPAW STAC7, completion of project proposals in support of SPAW objectives, and preparation of the draft SPAW Workplan and Budget for the 2017-2018 biennium (with linkages to SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway, Aichi targets and the introduction of indicators to better monitor outputs). It was noted that there had also been on-going and increased collaboration and synergies with relevant organisations and initiatives, both within and outside the region, particularly with the CBD, CITES, CMS, IWC, and Ramsar Secretariats, and GCRMN/ICRI, FAO-WECAFC and CRFM.
21. Ms Borobia-Hill stated that funding and fundraising efforts were facilitated through a number of initiatives which included funding from the Government of Italy (€1.3M in 2017 and USD1.4M in 2015-2016), the GEF CLME+ project (approximately USD1.36M), major meetings organized/attended by SPAW and the SPAW-RAC, the quarterly SPAW-RAC newsletter, and social media activity through the Communications Sub-programme of CEP. Ratification of the SPAW Protocol was also promoted among Governments (namely Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Dominican and Mexico), and coordination with CARICOM and the CBD Secretariats on a *Caribbean Biodiversity Strategy*, along with other UN Environment partners and the Secretariat of the CBD for CBD COP13.
22. She remarked that the *Strengthening of Protected Areas* was accomplished primarily through the SPAW Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) project with support for the participation of MPA managers in MPA sessions at the annual GCFI conferences in 2015 and 2016. Additionally, there were two (2) Training of Trainer (ToT) Courses in Grenada and the Dominican Republic for 19 English and Spanish speaking countries respectively, for a total of 48 participants. In collaboration with the SPAW-RAC and GCFI, an update of the regional MPA database was facilitated via integration of the 31 SPAW listed sites which aimed to enhance functionality for these MPAs. The application of a Decision Support System (DSS) tool and methodology are in progress for Puerto Plata and Monte Cristi in the Dominican Republic to support integrated sustainable management of these areas. Further resources for protected areas were accessed through small grants created under the ECMAN project and via technical assistance provided to the six (6) selected Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) under this project.
23. She mentioned that achievements under *Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species* included an updated list of protected areas under SPAW with one (1) PA proposed for listing by the Government of Cuba, and a revised list of species proposed under Annexes I - III of the Protocol. The format for reporting on exemptions under Article 11(2) and on their implementation was approved by the STAC7. It was noted that these were all pending adoption by the COP9.
24. Ms Borobia-Hill pointed out that *Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species* through the development of the Marine Mammals Action Plan (MMAP) was supported via the *Sister Sanctuary* programme in partnership with the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (USA), the AGOA Marine Mammals Sanctuary (Guadeloupe), the Santuario de Mamíferos Marinos (Dominican Republic), and the Yarari Marine Mammal and

Shark Sanctuary (Caribbean Netherlands). Specific mention was made of the *CARIB Tails* initiative which enabled support for awareness and information sharing on the use of photo-IDs of humpback whales. Other accomplishments included a management plan for the Santuario de Mamíferos Marinos in the Dominican Republic, a brochure on *Guidelines for Marine Mammal Watching in the WCR*, collaboration with Birds Caribbean through participation in a regional webinar in May 2016, and coordination with CITES/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on a regional enforcement network on the illegal trade of species. Efforts were in progress to finalize a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the International Whaling Commission, while regular dissemination of information on the lionfish, its impacts and its control was on-going.

25. She noted that under the *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Project*, an Inter-Agency Agreement (IAA) between the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the UN Environment-CEP was signed in June 2016 for the implementation of activities under the GEF/UNDP CLME+ project (operational since May 2015). Additional activities focused on coral reef ecosystems through the strengthening of the GCRMN-Caribbean, and on-going sharing of general data and research across the region on the control of the *Sargassum* influx. Under the EBM project, initiatives included a pilot project on EBM in two sites in the Dominican Republic and workshops focused on the application of the DSS methodology. As a result of limited funding, it was noted that activities concerning the *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangroves* would be postponed until 2018.
26. It was highlighted that during the biennium, expenditure was greater in 2016 in comparison to 2015, with funds secured primarily through the EBM and GEF CLME+ projects. There were no funds allocated from the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) to support activities of the SPAW Sub-programme.
27. Ms Borobia-Hill provided a brief summary on the status of the Decisions from COP8 which included on-going steps to urge Governments, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to SPAW, and the Secretariat's initiative to continue to support the protected areas listed through a cooperation programme which was currently being developed. She also highlighted the implementation of a number of Decisions were accomplished which included - 1) the approval of the thirteen (13) protected areas presented by STAC6 for listing under the Protocol; 2) the call for Contracting Parties to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties, in particular those on the review of species for listing under the Protocol and on the format for the exemptions reports; 3) the development of the format for exemptions; 4) the amendment of Annexes II and III with the addition of the requested and approved species; 5) adoption of the STAC6 Recommendations; 6) approval of the proposed SPAW Workplan/Budget for 2015-2016 (forwarded to the 16<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting for final adoption); and 7) the review of offers from Governments to host the 7<sup>th</sup> SPAW STAC Meeting in 2016.
28. Ms Borobia-Hill cited the challenges faced by the Secretariat and by extension the Sub-programme which included, limited resources within the Secretariat (including the SPAW-RAC), particularly in the areas of communications and outreach; changes in UN administrative procedures (e.g. as a result of the new administrative system Umoja); a general lack of funding from the CTF, and slow feedback and updates from Governments especially regarding changes of focal points.
29. The Meeting was invited to provide any comments on the activities implemented during 2015-2016 and to make the necessary recommendations. Parties were also requested to complement the information provided by the Secretariat, and inform the Meeting on their activities in support of SPAW objectives within their countries, including SPAW workplan activities in which they have participated and their impact.
30. The delegate of Colombia, Ms Jenny Bowie Wilches, thanked the Government of France for funding and hosting the Meeting. She also thanked the SPAW-RAC for its contribution to the Secretariat. She recommended that the Secretariat explore options on joint sustainable initiatives being developed within the framework of the Sargasso Sea Commission and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) to address regional initiatives and relevant issues such as the *Sargassum* influx, coral restoration and management, and invasive species such as the lionfish.
31. The delegate of the Dominican Republic, Mr José Manuel Mateo Feliz, thanked the French Government and French Guiana for hosting the Meeting and posed a question raised at the STAC7 Meeting, on why the Secretariat had postponed activities under the mangrove rehabilitation programme.

32. In response to the delegate of the Dominican Republic, Ms Borobia-Hill indicated that it was the result of a lack of available funding, and that the Ramsar Convention had always been a very important partner with the Secretariat. She invited the Director of the SPAW-RAC to provide more details in this regard.
33. The Director the SPAW-RAC, Ms Sandrine Pivard, explained that the SPAW-RAC had tried to provide continuity, maintain activities and work with the mangrove programme despite this lack of funding. She highlighted that funds had been formally requested from Ramsar to continue this initiative and so efforts had not been abandoned.
34. The delegate of Colombia acknowledged these comments related to the mangrove rehabilitation programme and stated that in light of the scope of initiatives mentioned by the Secretariat, and recalling the call made to countries via the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) now linked to the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2016 Paris Agreement, it would be beneficial for the Secretariat to consider creating linkages in this regard.
35. The delegate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands thanked the Government of France for hosting the Meeting along with the assistance of the SPAW-RAC, and remarked that they would continue to support cooperation with the Protocol.
36. The delegate of the USA, Ms Rona Rathod, also thanked the Government of France and French Guiana as hosts, along with the Secretariat. She also welcomed Ms Borobia-Hill and bade a fond farewell to Mrs Vanzella-Khoury. She asserted that the USA remained supportive of the MPA Managers Network Cooperation Programme and stood ready to assist in any way to move forward with this initiative. She noted that her colleagues from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) were ready to engage other MPA managers and hoped that the programme would soon become a reality. She remarked that in collaboration with the Wildlife Society, the USA had also funded a Latin American and Caribbean MPA project. The project aimed to support capacity building for planning, innovation, training, and piloting low technology and low cost compliance solutions for nearshore coastal MPAs in Belize, Honduras, Panama, and the Bahamas, and possibly other countries. She emphasized that the USA would be pleased to partner with colleagues in France, and looked forward to sharing outcomes of the project shortly.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2017-2018 BIENNIUM**

37. Ms Borobia-Hill from the Secretariat presented the Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Sub-programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.38/6.Rev1), developed following Decisions of previous COP Meetings to address relevant and emerging global and regional biodiversity issues and initiatives, and to continue the development of strategic alliances.
38. In her presentation, Ms Borobia-Hill outlined that the main coordination activities would continue to be provided by the Programme Officer along with a Programme Assistant, with support from the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. The Secretariat would also continue to seek programme support through the engagement of interns. The Programme elements would remain the same as the previous biennium. However, prioritization of the elements would be undertaken based on emerging needs and the human and financial resources available.
39. She recapped previously covered aspects via the Status of Activities and the objectives of the SPAW Sub-programme, including its coordination component and each sub-programme element. She highlighted the continued work and support in areas such as the application of EBM principles (in line with the EBM Project), the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) under the GEF/UNDP CLME+ project via integration with the Pollution Sub-programme and information on the status of habitats/ecosystems within the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR). Coordination and synergies with relevant initiatives, MEAs with organizations and partners, actions on convening the COP9 and STAC8, and promotion of the SPAW Protocol towards increasing ratifications for the biennium were also mentioned.
40. She conveyed that a new element was included in the workplan which outlined a summary analysis of the activities during the biennium and their relationship to international resolutions, targets or indicators. The international targets included the SDGs, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the resolutions from the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

41. Ms Borobia-Hill highlighted that for the *Strengthening of Protected Areas*, the ToT programme would continue under CaMPAM, while the small grants component would involve the conclusion of the Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project. There would also be strategic integration of CaMPAM activities within the cooperation programme for protected areas listed under SPAW. Further activities for the biennium would focus on the integration of pilot projects under the EBM project (specifically the DSS in the Dominican Republic), and other sites to be explored with the Pollution Sub-programme and integrated within the GEF/UNDP CLME+ project. The results from the CaMPAM evaluation would be applied to improve the MPA Regional Database, other communication tools, and overall delivery within the network. There would be continued support for managers at the annual GCFI Meetings (2017 and 2018), and sessions integrating land-based pollution and MPA management.
42. Concerning the *Conservation of Marine Mammals*, Ms Borobia-Hill pointed out that the WCR was one of the few regions in the world with a Marine Mammal Action Plan. In this regard, work would continue to focus within available resources on - 1) improving awareness and mitigating the effects of ship strikes and entanglements (especially follow-up to workshops with the IWC); 2) supporting networking among sites; 3) sustainable marine mammal watching in the region; 4) education, awareness and collaboration with the Agoa initiative and Cari'MAM project to support marine mammal MPA networks and sister sanctuaries; and 5) the biopsy campaign to identify contaminants in marine mammals.
43. She stated that the development of *Guidelines for the Management of Protected Areas and Species* would include reactivation of the cooperation programme for protected areas listed under the SPAW Protocol, possibly through an Ad Hoc Working Group identifying needs and gaps, and promoting connectivity and bilateral/multilateral cooperation among sites. Submission of exemption reports would be facilitated (following approved format) by Parties, and a mechanism would be considered following their implementation. Support would continue for the process of species listing under the SPAW Protocol (with WGs and IUCN species specialists), and the Secretariat would aim to include face-to-face meetings where funding was available.
44. Efforts for the *Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species* would focus on supporting activities which overlapped with the *Conservation of Marine Mammals* through implementation of the MMAP. Activities for sea turtles (in collaboration with the WIDECAS and IAC) would involve areas such as elaboration of Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs), and implementation of existing ones through national priority actions. Finally, there would be follow-up on the development of an illegal trade enforcement network with CITES, UNODC and other partners.
45. Ms Borobia-Hill mentioned that the *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems* through the conservation of coral reefs would be enabled through support to the GCRMN and implementation of guidelines for harmonized biophysical and socio-economic monitoring among countries. Linkages would be sought in support of the on-going BlueFinance project which aims to sustainably finance mechanisms for MMAs using public-private partnership agreements and a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme for finance management of coral reef conservation. Other general conservation efforts would involve the implementation of activities under the GEF/UNDP CLME+ project including an agreement between the Secretariat and Brazil, and an investment plan for large-scale action on habitat protection and restoration concentrated on ecosystems goods and services provided. Further activities would focus on small and medium sized grants under the BEST project for EU territories (via the SPAW-RAC). The conservation of wetlands/mangroves would take place in coordination with Cariwet and Ramsar, with an emphasis on capacity building to incorporate wetland protection and restoration within CaMPAM, addressing the impacts of *Sargassum* within Ramsar sites, and facilitating wetlands protection/restoration proposals at SPAW listed sites.
46. Ms Borobia-Hill requested further input from Contracting Parties on identifying priorities to appropriately guide the Secretariat, and highlighted continued challenges as a result of shortfalls and funding in certain programme areas which limited the Sub-programme's ability to carry out many activities.
47. The Meeting was invited to approve the draft SPAW Workplan and Budget as revised by the STAC7, and provide specific comments and recommendations as needed. Subsequently, the Workplan and Budget would be presented to the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine

Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, March 15-17 2017, as part of the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium, for its final adoption.

48. The delegate of France, Ms Nadia Deckert, thanked the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC for excellent presentations while noting that the previous work from the STAC7 was well reflected. She commented on the importance of reinforcing MPAs in the Caribbean to meet SDG objectives towards ensuring sustainability within the various projects. Coming out of Recommendation I (4) (vii) of the STAC7, and concerning the conservation of marine mammals and marine turtles, she highlighted that it was important to take into account the development of guidelines for the assessment of the impacts of offshore exploration, including seismic activities on cetaceans and marine mammals. Accordingly, the following amendments were proposed to the workplan–
- 1) Under the objectives of Section 2.2 (Strengthening of Protected Areas) - direct reference should be made to Aichi targets, particularly in the context of the conservation of important natural resources within PAs necessary for the sustainable development of the region;*
  - 2) Sections 2.4.2.1 and 2.4.2.2 (Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species) -on the basis of exchanges (post STAC7), and in order to take into account the adopted Recommendations, an item should be included on strengthening Protocol activities to assess and reduce the impacts of human activities on marine mammals and turtles, and in general, on marine ecosystems (e.g. a cetacean location mechanism, turtle localization tools etc.). Concerning the impacts of offshore exploration, it would be noteworthy to carry out a comparative study of existing regulations in the Caribbean to assist in the development of the recommended guidelines;*
  - 3) Section 2.5.2.1 (Conservation of Coral Reefs) - in an effort to promote coordination and maximization of resources, reference to efforts to revitalize the GCRMN and address the issue of ocean acidification should be highlighted more clearly. A third point (c) could be added to recall the need to strengthen links with the ICRI and to contribute as far as possible, to the implementation of its programme of work.*
49. The delegate of Colombia, Ms Jenny Bowie Wilches, thanked Ms. Vanzella-Khoury for all her hard work and dedication highlighting that Colombia was very pleased with her support and leadership over the years, and expressed regret at her departure. The delegate noted the immense challenge for implementation of sub-programme activities considering the many linkages, and dependency on both regional and global cooperation. With regard to the workplan, she suggested exploring and including initiatives aimed at controlling other invasive species that may represent significant risks in the region (outside of the lionfish), such as *Penaeus monodon* (Giant tiger prawn), *Corbicula fluminea* (Asian clam), and *Kappaphycus salvarezii* (Elkhorn sea moss). The delegate reiterated the comments made during Agenda Item 4 on exploring instances of collaboration to address regional issues or initiatives that were currently in effect.
50. The delegate of Barbados, Ms Kim Downes-Agard thanked the Secretariat for the extensive workplan presented, acknowledging that it was both comprehensive and ambitious. She welcomed continued efforts on increasing cooperation with MEAs and developing synergies which could lead to more effective implementation, and noted their importance to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with limited financial and human resources. She stated that the work with CITES on illegal trade was very important, and that Barbados remained supportive of issues which directly impacted biodiversity loss including illegal trade, ecosystem restoration and protection, alien invasive species and marine mammals. She highlighted that Barbados welcomed the work on *Sargassum* which was an important issue due to the direct impact on the country's vital tourism industry.
51. She remarked that considering the volume of work detailed in the workplan, Barbados would also be supportive of any prioritized activities outlined by the Secretariat. She concluded that outputs could not be accomplished without the necessary allocated resources, and as such, there was a need to clearly articulate a resource mobilization plan with well-defined steps on how this would be addressed.
52. The delegate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands highlighted accomplishments by the Caribbean Netherlands over the past biennium. Since the last COP, the territory had developed its own shark and marine mammal sanctuary on Saba and Bonaire (the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary), which was considered an advancement for research while noting plans for additional legislation. Specifically, for the shark component of the sanctuary, additional laws were being developed to minimize bycatch and other activities that were considered detrimental to the fisheries, alongside further efforts on research and collaboration with France and the USA through the Agoa and Stellwagen Bank Sanctuaries. This was achieved through an MoU for a "sister sanctuary" agreement with France through its Agency of Marine Protected Areas (AMP) and NOAA, with a focus on science research, education, and best practices to support the protection of endangered humpback whales that migrate between

sanctuaries. He also spoke to work with the GCRMN towards implementing a monitoring system which was developed on Saba and St. Eustatius (Statia), and expressed the Netherland's desire to continue being an active part of the Steering Committee, with further complements to Ms. Julie Belmont (past Chairman of the Steering Committee). He hoped that the work she initiated would continue despite her departure.

53. On behalf of the Secretariat, Ms. Inniss responded that she was grateful that Member States were recognizing the various challenges faced by the Secretariat in its efforts to efficiently deliver programme activities.
54. The delegate of the Dominican Republic, Mr José Manuel Mateo Feliz thanked the Chair and requested an interjection while apologizing for having paused the Secretariat's remarks. He expressed support for Colombia's comment on expanding invasive species for consideration outside of the lionfish, as countries faced many challenges from the impacts of these species. He stated that regarding the comments by France, focus was also needed on the West Indian manatee with links to SDG Goal 14 (*Life Below Water*) whereby attempts must be made to achieve this goal from a global standpoint. Mr Mateo Feliz, offered support for marine sanctuaries and highlighted his country's existing partnership with the USA under the *Sister Sanctuary agreement*, and expressed a continued willingness to maintain conservation of marine mammals across the region (especially humpback whales).
55. The delegate of St. Lucia, Mr Thomas Nelson, thanked the Secretariat for an elaborate workplan and commented on the need to strengthen collaboration between environmental and fisheries ministries, particularly regarding the listing of threatened and endangered species. He pointed out that many of these species had important impacts on the livelihood of those in the fisheries sector especially in the Caribbean region. He added that it was therefore important to remember their significance in this regard. He urged the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC to ensure that discussions on these species took into consideration all areas/factors when proposals were put forward.
56. The delegate of the USA also thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive presentation and looked forward to working together. She commented that the USA currently facilitated extensive work on coral reefs and how to address the many impacts affecting this ecosystem. This included a recently released *Coral Reef Mitigation Handbook* which could be shared with the Secretariat and made available to Parties.
57. The delegate of the Bahamas, Mr Lester Gittens, thanked the Government of France for hosting the Meeting and acknowledged that some aspects of the workplan addressed the illegal trade of species. He called particular attention to the issue of illegal smuggling of iguanas, along with a recent case in November 2016 wherein a neighbouring country was found poaching in Bahamian waters, and a high volume of lobsters discovered on board the vessel. In examining this particular incident, he stressed that there must be a trail of the funds generated by/from these activities. As such, cooperation was needed between all stakeholders of the international community. The Bahamas therefore requested assistance in thwarting illegal trade noting the impacts on other countries as well.
58. The UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project representative, Ms Laverne Walker, thanked the Government of France and the Secretariat for hosting and organizing the Meeting. She took the opportunity to inform the Meeting that in line with the Recommendation from STAC7 to increase coordination between the SPAW and LBS Protocols, a workshop on the development of a Sub-Project under the CLME+ Project on EBM along the North Brazil Shelf was held from 10-11 March 2017. She indicated that the participating countries - Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Suriname- met to discuss the sub-project activities and finalise the project proposal. She stated that although Brazil was unable to attend the workshop, it was expected to be a participating country. Despite the project being unable to issue GEF funds to French Guiana due to eligibility issues, it was hoped that the country would still be able to participate in some of the project activities. Project partners included UN Environment-CEP, FAO, UWI-CERMES and Conservation International.
59. Ms Walker addressed the comments by St. Lucia stating that through the CLME+ project, support was taking place at a regional level through pursuing MoUs with regional fisheries bodies, including invitations to attend meetings. She referenced the WECAFC's Reorientation and Strategic Planning Workshops and the need for support to be built up from the national to regional level.
60. In response to the intervention made by the delegate of the Bahamas concerning illegal trade, Ms Walker explained that with regard to fisheries resources, a Joint *WECAFC-FAO/CRFM/OSPESCA Illegal Unreported and*

*Unregulated (IUU) Working Group Meeting* was held in Barbados, 1-2 March 2017, with some support from the CLME+ Project. During the Meeting, a two (2) year workplan was approved and one of the outputs was for the development of a *Regional Plan of Action* for IUU fishing.

61. The delegate of the USA also addressed the intervention by the Bahamas stating that there were plans to make a presentation on the US Department of State's *Safe Oceans Network* later in the week during the 17th IGM. This presentation could be made available as it would help address some of these issues mentioned.
62. On behalf of the Secretariat, Ms Inniss thanked partner organisations for their comments and support. She explained that the Secretariat was making every effort to remain as relevant as possible to Member States, and that appropriate strategies would strengthen partnerships and improve mobilization of resources. She reminded the Meeting that approval of the workplan was based on agreement by the Parties, and given the shortage of resources, each time a new priority was mentioned, resources would need to be identified to address this - otherwise, some of these would need to be set aside until a later period when resources (human and financial) were available. She expressed that the Secretariat hoped that this could be examined during the course of the week's meetings, and that all areas could be addressed for the next IGM and COP.
63. Ms Inniss agreed that the CEP workplan was ambitious considering that programme staff consisted of only three (3) Programme Officers and two (2) Programme Assistants, with support from the RACs. She therefore encouraged Parties to offer staff that could augment some of these activities (even by working in the Secretariat for a few months) - all help and support was welcomed. She called attention to the Secretariat's recent audit (which would be discussed in more detail at the IGM), which recommended the development of a resource mobilization strategy. She commended the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their accomplishments and recalled the exceptional Shark Side Event at the STAC7.
64. The Director of the SPAW-RAC, Ms Sandrine Pivard, disclosed that several funding opportunities had materialized at the end of 2016 and also at the beginning of 2017 (ECMMAN, BEST III and GCRMN funds were being renewed). Additionally, there had been strong fundraising activity over the past few months with particularly good leads for European funding (via Interreg Europe) for marine management and coast line protection (specifically coral reefs and mangroves), which the RAC hoped would be successful. She echoed regret at the departure of Ms. Julie Belmont and also advised that significant personnel changes occurred within the RAC team in the last six (6) months. She indicated that Ms. Belmont's post, devoted to the European project, had been filled. In the interim, her position as Chair of the GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee was being held by Lucie Labbouz (SPAW-RAC Programme Coordinator and Assistant Director).
65. The representative of the FAO, Ms Tarub Bahri, thanked the Secretariat for the invitation to attend, and France for hosting the Meeting. She informed on recommendations made by the WECAFC regarding some species of interest to the SPAW Protocol, and drew attention to some activities and measures that could guide or support future SPAW efforts. These included the adoption and implementation of the recommendation (WECAFC/15/2014/1) "*on the establishment of a regional closed season for fisheries in the WECAFC area to protect spawning aggregations of groupers and snappers*" in response to the critical condition of Nassau grouper populations. Additional recommendations were also adopted on the Queen Conch and Spiny Tail Lobster. These recommendations listed a number of management measures that countries were invited to put in place and that were publicly available in the WECAFC Meeting report adopted in June 2016. She stated that WECAFC in close coordination with OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, CITES and the SPAW Protocol, had also developed a "*Regional plan for the management and conservation of Queen Conch in the WECAFC area*" that was adopted by WECAFC in June 2016 and by CITES COP17 in September 2016. It was hoped that implementation of the plan would commence soon.
66. In regards to the listing of sharks and rays, the Meeting was notified that the FAO through financial support from CITES and the EU, assisted Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados with shark assessments and the development of *National Plans of Action* on sharks in 2015-2016. There were currently on-going collaborations with Trinidad and Tobago to carry out similar activities. It was announced that there would be a forthcoming meeting of the WECAFC/OSPESCA Working Group on sharks scheduled to take place in Barbados, 4-6 July 2017, within the framework of the USA/NOAA-funded project "*Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Wider Caribbean Region*". Other recent developments included the release of an Identification Guide to Common Sharks and Rays of the Caribbean. Information was also provided on the FAO-led project CC4FISH on "*Climate change adaptation of the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector*", in particular its component on *Sargassum* which was expected to increase the knowledge on triggers and pathways in the Eastern Caribbean. As a follow-up to the issue



of Resolution WECAFC/16/2016/6 on “*Sea Cucumber Fisheries Management and Aquaculture*” which addressed the concerns of WECAFC members about sea cucumbers stocks, discussions were on-going for the development of a project on the sustainability of these fisheries.

67. In closing, Ms Bahri underscored that the SPAW Sub-programme and the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFB) shared much in common concerning the protection, management, and sustainable use of living marine resources. There was therefore a strong need to coordinate the planning, assessment and development of proposals in relation to the listing of species. Along the same lines, the designation of protected areas should be done in consultation with the RFB and the national fisheries authorities.
68. Ms Borobia-Hill thanked the representative of the FAO for her intervention while highlighting a number of issues where collaboration and synergies were indeed desirable. She added that the Secretariat looked forward to the opportunity to develop further partnerships (notably on *Sargassum*). The fisheries sector was foreseen as an area that would be at the forefront, especially from synergies through the GEF/UNDP CLME+ project.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC7) TO THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

69. The Secretariat presented the Recommendations of the SPAW STAC7 for review and approval (Miami, Florida, 2 - 4 November 2016) (Annex III of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/8). The Secretariat called to the attention of the Meeting, the relevant documents in support of the STAC7 Recommendations:
- The assessment of the protected areas proposed for listing (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/4 **regarding STAC7 Recommendation II**)
  - The proposals submitted by Parties of species for listing under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol (contained in documents UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.38/4 and UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.38/INF.7 **regarding STAC7 Recommendation III (1)**); and
  - Draft Reporting Format for Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) (Annex A of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/3 and UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.38/3.Rev1 that includes a proposal for exemption as case study on the format from the Government of Curaçao **regarding STAC7 Recommendation IV**).
70. The delegate of Colombia, Ms Jenny Bowie Wilches, thanked the Government of the USA for hosting the recent STAC7 and voiced several comments on both the text and supporting documents. The delegate specified that in accordance with the communication sent to the Secretariat in November 2016, the protected areas referenced in documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5 and UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.37/4, were never nominated through the official channels established for this purpose. Therefore, it was Colombia’s request that the Secretariat edit the documents to either reflect why the two (2) areas proposed by Colombia were taken out, or have any reference of them removed all together. For Recommendation I(4)(vi), it was proposed that text be included on the theme of coral restoration, and management of invasive species (such as the lion fish), in accordance with the initiatives that were carried out under the framework of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).
71. Concerning Annex A of documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/3 and UNEP(DEPI)/ CAR WG.38/3.Rev1, it was emphasized that the progress in the design of this format constituted an important effort. However, the Government of Colombia was of the view that the current formulation of the document and the manner in which it was being considered, could be subject to conflicting interpretations thereby resulting in possible confusion on the information provided. As such, for Recommendation IV(1), the delegate advocated for continued work by the Parties to carefully evaluate the process as many points had been raised at the STAC7, and given that the format was adopted on a voluntary basis, it should remain open to proposals for adjustments.
72. Based on this intervention, the Chair proposed addressing the Recommendations in the order by which they were discussed at the STAC7.
73. In keeping with Recommendation II, the delegate of France reminded the Secretariat that it was expected that the recommended changes, based on earlier interventions, would be reflected and integrated in the 2017-2018 workplan.

74. For Recommendation III, the delegate of the USA thanked those who had presented comments and offered support for the listing of the Nassau grouper along with the other listings, and encouraged Parties to provide as comprehensive information as possible to enable Parties to make informed decisions on proposed listings and remember the guidelines.
75. The delegate of the Bahamas supported the listing of the Nassau grouper. He recalled the initial recommendation for its listing in 2013 via the WECAFC Working Group and the need for regional cooperation and assistance with regards to management of the species.
76. The Kingdom of the Netherlands voiced their strong support for the proposed listing of shark species.
77. The delegate of Colombia reminded the Meeting of the earlier intervention on coral reefs, particularly in association with the ACS. Under Recommendation IV(1), she reaffirmed remarks on the hard work put forward by the WG and the need for the exemptions format to remain open to revisions and amendments from countries.
78. The delegate of the USA, Ms Rona Rathod, echoed support for this point reiterating that the form itself was voluntary as reported by the STAC, and though exemptions had to be reported, countries could use their own reports as long as all relevant information was submitted.
79. The Secretariat acknowledged that it had taken note of the initial comments from Colombia, and would revisit some of the issues once all feedback on the Recommendations was completed.
80. At the request of the Government of France, a video on the Grand Connétable Island Nature Reserve (a site recommended for SPAW listing) was then shown.
81. The delegate of the USA called specific attention to Recommendation IV(1), regarding the format for reporting exemptions. The USA wanted to confirm that the Secretariat made the recommended change to the initial language on the top of the form which states “Decision of the COP on pertinence of exemption.” The delegate indicated that at the last STAC meeting, it was agreed the text should read “Decision of the STAC on pertinence of exemption.”
82. The Secretariat confirmed that the recommended edit was made on the exemption form.
83. In response, the delegate of Curaçao mentioned earlier dialogue with the Secretariat regarding formulation of this point, and suggested that it be changed so that the meaning of the Recommendation was explicit.
84. Ms Borobia-Hill on behalf of the Secretariat wanted to clarify that in fact, the delegate of Curaçao raised the issue that the wording at the end of Recommendation IV (2), which states “provide its finding at the end of the year”, refers to what was found by the STAC in 2016. At that time, WG members were invited to provide comments regarding the format itself by the end of that year, which indeed has occurred. The Secretariat suggested to edit the language so that it reflects “at the end of 2016.”
85. The delegate of Curaçao confirmed that would be acceptable.
86. The delegate of France also requested more clarity on this Recommendation to correctly understand the procedure and timeline referenced and noted that there had not been STAC opinions provided on this topic.
87. Ms Borobia-Hill clarified further that after the last STAC meeting, STAC members were requested to submit comments regarding the format of the form by the end of 2016, which is what the delegate of Curaçao is clarifying. M. Borobia-Hill suggested amending this and reviewing the recommendations after the break to make sure that clarification is reflected on the form.
88. The delegate of the USA thanked the Secretariat for its efforts to clarify, but acknowledged that similar to France, there remained some confusion about the formulation. She stated that the USA, being a member of the Ad Hoc WG, was of the understanding that the reporting format was submitted in order for the STAC to assess the pertinence of the exemptions report in addition to the format. It is unclear whether this took place, which was at

the request of the WG to assess pertinence. The delegate from the USA respectfully requested an update on where that assessment stands and whether the issue should be discussed within the WG or at this meeting.

89. Ms Borobia-Hill replied that these were two (2) separate issues specifically -1) finalizing and considering the approval of the reporting format on exemptions developed and discussed during STAC7; and 2) the comments of the WG requiring further information from the Government of Curaçao based on its exemption submission. She noted that this matter was not provided for in the annotated agenda and that the discussion is in relation to the specific format of the exemption reporting form and not the content of the exemption report put forth by Curaçao. She pointed out that the Secretariat sent these comments to the Government of Curaçao, but this issue was still under review, the process was on-going and therefore will not be discussed further at this time.
90. The delegate of France thanked the Secretariat and apologized for not understanding. The delegate asked the Secretariat to clarify that if the evaluation of the exemption report from Curaçao should be conducted after additional information is provided, then the evaluation will take place in the 2018 STAC or the WG.
91. The Secretariat confirmed – the STAC requested information that needs to be conveyed and transmitted but does not necessarily need to wait until the next meeting. Reference the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/3, Guidance document on page 4 which states “final assessment of the pertinence of the exemption is reported to the COP by the STAC.” Once the pertinent information is received, further conversation can take place intersessionally via other methods. The STAC request has been communicated and the Secretariat awaits further information from Curaçao in order to proceed.
92. In light of this, the French delegation welcomed the transparency of the Government of Curaçao’s communication of this information and the request for derogation. However, the delegation questioned the competence of the COP to issue an opinion on this project in the light of the provisions governing exemptions under the SPAW Protocol. It was recognized that a project of this nature was indeed a necessity for some states, but stressed that it must be via sustainable means. The following recommendations, under the conditions of French law, were recalled for consideration of exemptions :
- *the demonstration of the general interest of the project*
  - *the absence of alternatives of lesser impact*
  - *the derogation from the destruction of protected species was subject to scientific advice and conservation measures (movement of species)*
  - *the design of the project must include measures to reduce environmental impacts and measures to compensate for residual impacts*
  - *compensatory measures must make it possible to offset impacts through constructive measures proportionate to the environmental functionality lost. This may include creating new coral reefs, re-planting mangroves, restoration of fishing areas etc.*
  - *compensatory measures must be guaranteed over time*
93. The delegate of Curaçao thanked France for the comments and hoped that the discussion could go further in a positive direction. It was stated that Curaçao was awaiting the necessary feedback from the Secretariat/Ad Hoc WG so that a response could be prepared as Curaçao takes this treaty seriously and wants to deal with the issue properly.
94. Ms Borobia-Hill reiterated that in fact the Secretariat communicated the request, concerns and comments received from the STAC and member states to the Government of Curaçao and noted the Secretariat was still awaiting Curaçao’s response. As a result, the STAC had not yet had the opportunity to work on the subject, and this would be reviewed once the required information was made available by the Government of Curaçao.
95. The delegate of the USA indicated that she looked forward to receiving further information from Curaçao regarding the comments posed by the WG. She requested that all Parties take careful consideration of Article 11(2) especially in determining whether it is in accordance with the language of the Protocol, and to also pay attention to the guidance document. The request was also made to meet with the other WG countries towards further discussions at the next STAC/COP, and to prevent prejudging submissions from any country. It was re-iterated that Article 11(2) was very specific and clear in the context of exemptions, and Parties should endeavour to review and become familiar with all elements.

96. The delegate of Colombia suggested a clarification of the proposed wording under Recommendation IV(3) that the Parties start an internal process to assess whether member states needs to submit this exemption form.
97. It was agreed by the Chair and Secretariat that this could be facilitated during the coffee break.
98. Concerning Recommendation V (1), the delegate of the USA commented on the need for integration of various ocean marine activities in the context of the GEF. She commended recent accomplishments by the Secretariat – this represented a vanguard which other organizations should copy across the world.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

99. Participants were invited to raise any other issues not covered by the preceding Agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting.
100. The delegate of St. Lucia highlighted that in addition to other countries, their jurisdiction had been receiving some level of interest in the harvesting of sea cucumbers. Given that there was a general lack of information about the status of these species, its habitats, etc., it was proposed that the SPAW-RAC initiate some level of discussion regarding sea cucumbers in the region. He clarified that this intervention was not advocating listing of the species or any such action, but primarily for calling attention to this subject within the Caribbean as it was now an issue in other regions.
101. Presentations were made by delegates of French Guiana, Mr. Kévin Pineau (Nature Reserve Manager) and Ms. Hélène Sirder (Vice President of the Collectivité Territoriale), on existing protected areas and those recommended for listing under SPAW. The first presentation outlined the proposed areas -the Amana and Kaw Roura Nature Reserves - which possessed large mangroves and associated ecosystems, marine mammals, marine turtles, and many migratory birds. The second presentation highlighted the Grand Connétable Island Nature Reserve which was listed in 2012 and considered very important for many species such as the critically endangered Goliath grouper.
102. The delegates provided further details linking current work on protected areas in French Guiana, to the video viewed earlier on the Grand Connétable Island Nature Reserve. It was expected that French Guiana would be much more involved in the Cartagena Convention at the end of this process, and the programme of cooperation between the territory and the rest of the Caribbean and would be strengthened along with the overall management of biodiversity within the region. It was explained that the Amana and Kaw Roura Nature Reserves were managed by the Regional Nature Reserve of Guyana (PNRG) and were designated RAMSAR sites. The sites were locally protected resources, designated with an aim to promote global awareness and sustainability to safeguard the needs of future generations. They were also considered important living spaces for local populations. It was therefore crucial to encourage communities to become stakeholders in the management of these areas.
103. The Secretariat reminded the Meeting that the Recommendations proposed for amendment would be reviewed, followed by the adoption of the draft Decisions.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

104. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the draft Decisions of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/3). The Meeting was invited to adopt the Decisions, with amendments and corrections to be introduced, as appropriate. The Decisions would be made available to the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cayenne, French Guiana15 - 17 March 2017) for adoption.
105. The delegate of France recalled that for Decision 8, it should be indicated that the Government of France had placed a reserve on their budget which was pending a general revision. He added that the text on the International Coral Reef Initiative Action Plan should also be edited to reflect 2016 instead of 2013.

106. The delegate of the USA maintained that more wording was needed regarding the Curaçao exemption case, as it had been recommended by the STAC to examine this case intrinsically. She stressed that unless the USA had misunderstood a large point in the STAC discussion, this could not be ignored as it was implied that Curaçao would have provided the necessary information to enable examination of their request.
107. The delegate of Curaçao requested further explanation from the delegate of the USA given that Curaçao's understanding was that discussion was to focus on the format of the exemption report itself, and not on the content of the exemption report submitted by Curaçao.
108. The delegate of the USA responded that indeed they were of the same understanding, however, the substance of the Curaçao exemption report was discussed at the STAC7, and recommendations were made that the WG would discuss its content. Parties to the Protocol were therefore expecting more information on the substance of the report - otherwise it would appear that the magnitude of the issue was overlooked.
109. In view of the fact that Curaçao remained unclear on the recommendation from the USA, Ms Inniss on behalf of the Secretariat clarified that the Decision being put forward was based on the Recommendations of STAC7 for approval by the COP. In light of this, it was not a Decision on the content presented, but on the Recommendations coming out of the STAC.
110. The delegate of Curaçao requested a clearer proposal for the wording put forward by the USA.
111. The delegate of the USA suggested appropriate wording and indicated that her remarks were in keeping with procedural grounds.
112. The representative of the Animal Welfare Institute, Ms Courtney Vail, voiced agreement with the proposed wording from the USA. However, she thought it best that this text be placed elsewhere in the Decisions since as is, the proposal would amend an existing Recommendation.
113. The delegate of Curaçao agreed with this suggestion.
114. The delegate of the Dominican Republic expressed that he did not see the subject as a complex issue, but that it was simply a matter of inclusion to accurately reflect the STAC7 Recommendations. He reiterated that this was not a controversial issue – it merely needed to be stated that the matter was discussed at the STAC7 and a suitable location agreed/identified to place the recommended text.
115. Ms Borobia-Hill from the Secretariat agreed with this sentiment and suggested that in the interest of time, the text would be modified at a later point to accurately reflect the spirit of discussion between both parties.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

116. The Chair thanked the Rapporteur and Vice Chairs of the Meeting for the important work carried out..
117. The First Vice-Chair thanked the Chair for a job well done in conducting the Meeting.
118. Ms Borobia-Hill thanked Parties for their participation, and the interpreters for their support. She reminded the Meeting that the report would be prepared in all three (3) languages and circulated once completed.
119. The Meeting was closed on Monday, 13 March 2017 at 6:00 p.m. by the Chairperson.



**ANNEX I: AGENDA**





## **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 Sub-programme for 2015-2016, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe
5. Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Sub-programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium
6. Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the SPAW Protocol (Miami, Florida, 2 – 4 November 2016)
7. Other Business
8. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
9. Closure of the Meeting

**ANNEX II: DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

## DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Contracting Parties:

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

**Recalling** the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, which reaffirmed the commitment contained in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and **welcoming** target 14.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, calling for the conservation, by 2020, of at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas;

**Recognizing** the International Coral Reef Initiative Action Plan 2016 which set a basis for the integrated management of marine biodiversity following the International Coral Reef Initiative's General Meeting in Paris, November 2016;

**Commending** the continuous work and accomplishments of the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) which has been implemented for the last 19 years, having been recognised by the international community as a recipient of the Fred Packard Award in 2016;

**Taking note** of the Status of Activities of the SPAW Sub-programme for 2015-2016 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3) and Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: RAC Operations and Budget for the period 2015-2016 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4);

**Taking note** of the evaluation of CaMPAM activities (2010-2015) and recommendations for improvement (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF6);

**Taking note** of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region;

**Acknowledging** the work of the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to address emerging issues such as Sargassum influx, as well as the continued work on conservation of coral reefs and management of invasive species;

**Having reviewed** the Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol, Miami, United States, 2-4 November 2016 contained in the Report of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/8) ;

**Having reviewed** the Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/6.Rev1);

### Decide to:

1. **Encourage** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol;
2. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat and to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties;

3. **Adopt** the Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/7 with the following amendments:

**Recommendation I.4(vi)**

The collaborative work with relevant partners, including the ACS and CRFM, other Governments and regions on areas of common interest, such as the management and response to the *Sargassum* influx, restoration of coral reefs, and invasive species

**Recommendation IV.2**

The interested members of the Ad hoc Working Group on exemptions also consider the Reporting Format as applied on the Curaçao's exemption case and provide its findings on the format only, prior to the end of the year. As discussed during the STAC7, Curaçao is encouraged to provide further information on their exemption submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group.

**Recommendation IV.3**

Having approved the voluntary Reporting Format for Exemptions encourages Parties to use it when reporting such an exemption

4. **Amend** the SPAW Protocol species Annexes by adding the following species to Annex II and Annex III respectively:

**Annex II**

*Passerina ciris*, Painted bunting  
*Pristis pectinata*, Smalltooth sawfish

**Annex III**

*Liguus fasciatus*, Florida treesnail  
*Manta birostris*  
*Manta alfredi*  
*Manta sp. cf. birostris*  
*Sphyrna lewini*  
*Sphyrna mokarran*  
*Sphyrna zygaena*  
*Carcharhinus longimanus*, Oceanic whitetip shark  
*Rhincodon typus*, Whale shark  
*Epinephelus striatus*, Nassau grouper

5. **Approve** the submission by the Government of Cuba to list the National Park Cayos de San Felipe under the SPAW Protocol and **welcome** the initiation process of the Government of France presented on the future submission of two (2) protected areas for listing under the SPAW Protocol;
6. **Approve** the voluntary draft Reporting Format for Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.38/3/Rev.1;
7. **Encourage** Parties to report exemptions in a format in which all relevant information be included. A possibility is the Reporting Format for Exemptions accepted at STAC7 and **emphasize** that the Reporting of exemptions is a critical component of the SPAW Protocol which enables Parties to confirm their compliance with the obligations they have taken on as Parties to the SPAW Protocol -

- i) **Recognize** that the reporting of exemptions also demonstrates that, in exceptional situations, the obligations of the SPAW Protocol cannot be fully met even after all efforts have been made to do so;
  - ii) Further **recognize**, in general, that Parties, before doing so, should be encouraged to follow what is commonly agreed as being good practice; to try and avoid, when possible, mitigate, and on last resort offset impacts on the environment of the activity concerned;
  - iii) **Acknowledge** the transparency of the Government of Curaçao in submitting its exemption report as a case study, for the Reporting Format for Exemptions and **encourage** the continuation of this process;
8. **Approve** the proposed SPAW Workplan and Budget for 2017-2018 as revised by STAC7 and with modifications and priorities introduced by the Meeting, and **urges** Parties to support the Secretariat with resources and its fundraising efforts to implement the Workplan; and **further decide** that it be forwarded to the 17<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for final adoption;
  9. **Encourage** the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to enhance cooperation and coordination with Multilateral Environmental Agreements, regional fisheries organizations, the International Coral Reef Initiative, the International Whaling Commission, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, CariWET, the Sargasso Sea Commission, MARFund, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and other relevant regional and international initiatives and projects, in particular on coral reef monitoring and conservation, marine mammals conservation, the illegal trade of species, ecosystem based management activities, and in the GEF/UNDP CLME+ project activities;
  10. **Welcome** the designation of 2018 as the International Year of the Reef and **encourages** Parties to actively participate and support the Secretariat in the implementation of activities in this regard, including with fund-raising efforts;
  11. **Welcome** offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possibility of hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> SPAW STAC Meeting in 2018.

**ANNEX III: LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
<b><u>Working Documents</u></b>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/1	Provisional Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/3	Guidance document - Criteria and process to assess exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) ( <i>includes draft format for reporting exemptions</i> )	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/4	Proposal for Protected Area to be listed under the SPAW Protocol	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/6.Rev1	Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/8	Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Miami, Florida, 2 - 4 November 2016	5,6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/5	Decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cayenne, French Guiana, 13 March 2017 ( <i>to be prepared during the Meeting</i> )	8
<b><u>Information Documents</u></b>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants ( <i>to be prepared during the Meeting</i> )	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/INF.3	Species Listed under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/ INF.4	GCRMN - Caribbean Guidelines for Integrated Coral Reef Monitoring	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3.Rev1	Draft Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas And Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) - ( <i>includes case study from the Government of</i> )	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/4	Report of the Working Group on the Listing of Species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5	Proposals for Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5-Addendum 1.Rev1	Map of SPAW protected areas already listed in 2012 and 2014, and protected areas to be listed	4,5,6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3	Status of Activities of the SPAW Sub-programme for 2015-2016 ( <i>includes status of STAC6 Recommendations and COP8 Decisions</i> )	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4	Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: operations and budget for the period 2015-2016	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5	Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities ( <i>includes supplement on the ongoing Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project</i> )	4

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.6	Evaluation of CaMPAM Activities and Recommendations for Improvement - <i>An analysis of the last 15 years</i>	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.7	Species proposals submitted by Parties for listing under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.7 Addendum 1	- Proposal to include 8 shark and ray species in Annexes II and III of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.7 Addendum 2	- Discussion on management conflicts due to species listed in Annexes of the SPAW Protocol - ( <i>French delegation</i> )	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.9	Sargassum Management Brief - Golden Tides: <i>Management Best Practices for Influxes of Sargassum in the Caribbean with a focus on clean-up</i>	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.10	Agoa Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network (CARI'MAM) White Paper: <i>Strengthen Regional Cooperation for The Conservation of Marine Mammals within the Caribbean Region and Beyond</i>	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.11	Plan de Manejo del Santuario de Mamíferos Marinos de los Bancos de La Plata y La Navidad – República Dominicana ( <i>Español solamente</i> )	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.12	Paper on The Sargassum Seaweed Invasion of West African and Caribbean Coasts UNEA-2 Side Event	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.13	Overarching Principles and Best Practice Guidelines for Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.14	Caribbean Sargassum Summary Factsheet	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.15	GCFI Factsheet - Pelagic Sargassum Influx in the Wider Caribbean	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.16	The Sister Sanctuaries Program for Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean – A US/NOAA, Dominican Republic, France and the Netherlands Initiative	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.17	GCRMN-Caribbean Guidelines for Coral Reef Biophysical Monitoring	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.18	Factsheet - Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.19	Global Coral Reef Partnership of UNEP and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans Factsheets	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.20	Beyond Borders Protection the North Atlantic Humpback Whale Sister Sanctuary Program White Paper: <i>A Strategy for Advancing Humpback Whale Conservation and Transboundary Management - October 2016</i>	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7.Rev1	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.10	Annex A and C (Agreement) – CLME+: Catalysing Implementation of Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/5	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> )	6



UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/ 8	Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December 2014	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.7	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) and the outcomes of the Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project: Summary Report, Best Practices and Lessons Learnt	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36 /INF.12	Proposal of the United States of America for the inclusion of the Nassau Grouper ( <i>Epinephelus striatus</i> ) in Annex III of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.7	Report on the Ratification of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols (Cartagena Convention)	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG. 34/4	Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014.	4,5

### **Reference Documents**

CLME+ SAP v1.3 2016	CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Information Booklet (v1.3), 2016	
MTS 2018-2021	UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.8	Report on the LifeWeb-Spain UNEP-CEP Meeting on Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 23 - 24 April 2014	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.9	Report of the First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention at the 66 <sup>th</sup> Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, November 5, 2013	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10	Report on the Workshop of Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) for the Wider Caribbean: Review, improve and revitalize the network and the nodes for more effective coral reef monitoring and data management, Curacao, 6-8 August 2014	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.11	Status of Development of the Regional Strategy for the Control of the Lionfish Invasion in the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/INF.5	Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.13	Nassau Grouper, <i>Epinephelus striatus</i> (Bloch 1792) Biological Report	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.6	IUCN Caribbean Red List of Threatened Species – A Proposal	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/5	Report of the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 11-13 December 2014	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6	Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2015-2016 Biennium	
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> )	

UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.31/3	Decisions of the Meeting - Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32 INF.9 Rev.3	Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/4	Draft Grid for the Objective Evaluation of Proposals for Inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/4	Structure and Scope of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPAW Protocol
UNEP(OCA)/CAR IG.11/7	Proposed Legal Framework for the Administrative Technical and Financial Operations of RACs and RANs
UNEP, 2010	Rules of Procedure for the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)
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)
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
UNEP, 1990	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Caribbean Region
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

**ANNEX IV: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**List of Participants**

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