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

Panama City, Panama, 5 - 7 December 2018

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region held in Kingston, 15 to 18 January 1990, adopted the SPA Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 20 of the SPA Protocol establishes the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). This Article provides that each Party shall appoint a scientific expert appropriately qualified in the field covered by the Protocol as its representative on the Committee, who may be accompanied by other experts and advisors appointed by that Party. Article 20 also provides that the Committee may also seek information from scientifically and technically qualified experts and organisations.
2. In light of the above, and in keeping with Decision No. 1 of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) (COP1) (Havana, Cuba, 24 - 25 September 2001) and Decisions of COP9 (Cayenne, French Guiana, 13 March 2017), this Meeting is being convened by the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention in Panama City, Panama, 5 - 7 December 2018.
3. The proposed objectives of the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC8) to the SPA Protocol are to:
 - Review the status of Activities of the SPA Subprogramme for 2017-2018, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPA (SPA-RAC) in Guadeloupe;
 - Review the submissions for the protected areas proposed by Parties for listing under the SPA Protocol and make recommendations to SPA COP10;
 - Review the species proposed by Contracting Parties for listing under the Annexes of the SPA Protocol following the existing criteria and revised process proposed by SPA COP9, and make recommendations to SPA COP10;
 - Review the reports for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPA Protocol proposed by Contracting Parties and make recommendations for adoption by SPA COP10; and

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.

- Develop the 2019-2020 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for subsequent approval by SPAW COP10 and the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region tentatively in March 2019, respectively.
- 4. The sixteen Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol are invited to the Meeting to nominate their respective representatives to be part of the SPAW STAC8 in keeping with Article 20 of the Protocol. Other member Governments of CEP, United Nations agencies and non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations are invited to participate as Observers. The provisional list of participants will be prepared during the Meeting and presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.2.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 5. The Meeting will be opened by the Secretariat on Wednesday, 5 December 2018, at 2:30p.m., in Panama City, Panama.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

- 6. 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) (UNEP, 2012) will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, for the conduct of the Meeting.

2.2 Election of Officers

- 7. The Meeting will be invited to elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties to SPAW; the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur for the conduct of the Meeting.

2.3 Organisation of Work

- 8. English, French and Spanish will be the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages will be provided for the Meeting, and the Working Documents will be available in all the working languages. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting is presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.1.
- 9. The Secretariat proposes to convene the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of working groups if necessary, which may be established by the Chairperson. No simultaneous interpretation will be available for the working groups. Participants will be reminded that, given the length of the Meeting, breaking into working groups might not be feasible. Participants are 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

- 10. The Meeting will be invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting, prepared by the Secretariat based on inputs received from the Contracting Parties during preparations for the Meeting, on relevant recommendations and decisions from previous STAC and COP Meetings of the SPAW Protocol, as well as on emerging issues of relevance to the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean. The Provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat is presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/1.

AGENDA ITEM 4: STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR 2017-2018, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW-RAC) IN GUADELOUPE

11. The Secretariat will present the “Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2017-2018” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.3). During the presentation the Secretariat will also briefly refer 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 2017-2018 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.4);
 - Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.5);
 - Report on the “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management” project funded by the government of Italy (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.6 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.8 Rev 1).
12. The Meeting will be invited to provide any comments on the activities implemented during 2017-2018 and to make the necessary recommendations. Parties will also be 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.

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

13. The Secretariat will invite the SPAW-RAC, as coordinator of the Working Group on the assessment of the protected areas proposed for listing, to report on the proposals presented by Parties, as per information contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/4 and following Decision 5 of the SPAW COP9 (Cayenne, French Guiana, 13 March 2017).
14. The Meeting will be invited to review the report which includes proposed protected areas for listing from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of France:
- the Mount Scenery National Park of Saba Island (proposed by the Netherlands)
 - the National Natural Reserve of Kaw-Roura and the National Natural Reserve of Amana in French Guiana (proposed by the Government of France)

The Meeting will therefore endorse its recommendations for approval by the SPAW COP10 in 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 6: SPECIES PROPOSED BY CONTRACTING PARTIES FOR LISTING UNDER THE ANNEXES OF THE SPAW PROTOCOL

15. The Secretariat will invite the SPAW-RAC, as coordinator of the Working Group on the assessment of the species proposed for listing, to report on the work undertaken since COP9 and will present the proposals submitted by Parties of species for listing under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol (contained in documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/3 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.7). Proposals for listing include:
- Two (2) shark species (*Pristis pristis* and *Carcharhinus falciformis*) to be added to Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol respectively, supported by the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
 - Four (4) shark species (*Rhincodon typus*, *Sphyrna mokarran*, *Sphyrna zygaena*, *Carcharhinus longimanus*) to be added to Annex II of the SPAW Protocol, supported by France;
 - One (1) species of manta (*Manta birostris*) to be added to Annex II of the SPAW Protocol, supported by France;
 - France also proposes the establishment of a dedicated Working Group whose objective is to prepare as a first step, a recommendation on parrotfish and if applicable, other coral herbivores, including their classification in Annexes II or III of the Protocol.

16. The Meeting will be invited to provide comments on the proposals and make recommendations to the SPAW COP10 in 2019.

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

17. The Secretariat will present the United States Exemptions Report (2017) (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40 /INF.9) for consideration by Parties based on the “Draft Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW)” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 Rev1). This document reflects the voluntary format proposed by the Working Group since its re-establishment following Decision 4 of the SPAW COP8 (9 December 2014), and Decision 6 of the SPAW COP9 (13 March 2017) respectively (*which included a proposal for exemption from the Government of Curaçao as case study on the format*).
18. The Meeting will be invited to review the presented report and provide recommendations for final consideration by SPAW COP10 in 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 8: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2019-2020 BIENNIUM

19. The Secretariat will present the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2019-2020 Biennium” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.40/5), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the recommendations of previous STAC and COP Meetings, as well as on the outcome of activities of the 2017-2018 Workplan for SPAW and other relevant emerging regional and international issues.
20. The Meeting will be invited to review the draft Workplan, prioritize activities, and make recommendations to assist with its finalisation prior to being adopted by SPAW COP10, the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, tentatively March 2019, respectively.
21. The participants will also be invited to complement the information on the proposed SPAW Workplan recommending synergies with other relevant projects, as well as potential sources of funding and support.

AGENDA ITEM 9: EMERGING ISSUES

22. The Meeting will be invited to consider relevant emerging issues such those relating to the Sargassum influx. The Secretariat will present the document “Sargassum White Paper - Sargassum Outbreak in the Caribbean: Challenges, Opportunities and Regional Situation” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.8).
23. The Meeting will also be asked to consider the proposal by the Government of France for the establishment of a Working Group on the Sargassum influx (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.8. Addendum 1).

AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

24. Participants will be invited to raise any other issues not covered by the preceding agenda items, but which are relevant to the scope of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

25. The Rapporteur of the Meeting will present the draft recommendations of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/7). The Meeting will be invited to adopt the recommendations, with amendments and corrections to be introduced as appropriate. The recommendations will be made available to the SPAW COP10 in 2019 for adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 12: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

26. The Meeting is expected to be closed on Friday, 7 December 2018 at 12:00p.m. by the Chairperson of the Meeting and the Secretariat.