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

Miami, Florida, 2 - 4 November 2016

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**

*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.*

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## ACRONYMS

AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
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
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
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
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
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
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
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-ESDU	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States -Environment and Sustainable Development Unit
OSPESCA	Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization
PA	Protected Area
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RCDR	Reef Check Dominican Republic
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)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SLMR	Shared Living Marine Resources
SPAW	Specially 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
UNEP	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
WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
WIDECAS	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 20 of the SPAW Protocol establishes the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). This Article provides that each Party shall appoint a scientific expert appropriately qualified in the field covered by the Protocol as its representative on the Committee, who may be accompanied by other experts and advisors appointed by that Party. Article 20 also provides that the Committee may also seek information from scientifically and technically qualified experts and 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 (SPAW) (COP1) (Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001) and Decisions of COP8 (Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014), this Meeting was convened by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP), in Miami, Florida, 2-4 November 2016.
3. The proposed objectives of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC7) to the SPAW Protocol were to:
  - Review the status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2015-2016, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe;
  - Review the submissions for the protected areas proposed by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol and make recommendations to SPAW COP9;
  - Review the species proposed by Contracting Parties for listing under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol following the existing criteria and revised process proposed by SPAW COP8, and make recommendations to SPAW COP9;
  - Review the Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group and make recommendations for its adoption by SPAW COP9; and
  - Develop the 2017-2018 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for subsequent approval by SPAW COP9 and the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan of 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 in March 2017, respectively.
4. The sixteen Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol were invited to the Meeting to nominate their respective representatives to be part of the SPAW STAC7 in keeping with Article 20 of the Protocol. Other member Governments of CEP, United Nations agencies and non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations were invited to participate as Observers. The list of participants is included in Annex IV to this Report

**AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

5. The Meeting was opened by the Secretariat on Wednesday, 2 November 2016, at 3:00p.m., in Miami, Florida. Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury Programme Officer for the SPAW Sub-programme welcomed participants to the STAC7, and thanked the United States Government for the hosting and support to Meeting.
6. Opening statements were provided by Ms. Lorna Inniss, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme and of the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention.
7. In her remarks, Ms. Inniss welcomed all meeting participants and acknowledged the Secretariat staff for their hard work in preparing for the first ever joint SPAW and LBS STACs. She also highlighted that the SPAW Programme Officer was recently presented with the Fred Packard Award in recognition of her outstanding service to protected areas and conservation, and longstanding work with the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network (CaMPAM), alongside the CAMPAM Coordinator, Dr Georgina Bustamante.
8. Ms. Inniss thanked the Government of the United States of America (USA) for its financial and logistical support which made it possible to convene the joint STAC Meetings in Miami during the week. She highlighted the financial contributions of the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project and donor Governments, such as Italy, which although not a Member Country to the CEP or Party to SPAW, had seen the value in supporting the programme and its activities through projects such as those promoting Ecosystem Based Management (EBM).
9. In closing, she expressed gratitude to the Director and staff of the SPAW-RAC for their continued technical inputs, and the Government of France for its valuable financial contribution to the SPAW Sub-programme and consequently to the goals of the Cartagena Convention and its SPAW Protocol. She thanked all SPAW Focal Points for their continued support over the biennium.
10. The head of USA Delegation, Ms. Rona Rathod, was then invited to make final opening remarks. Ms. Rathod highlighted the synergies between the two Protocols and reiterated the USA commitment to protected areas considering recent steps by the USA President and Secretary of State to create and extend marine protected areas.
11. The SPAW Programme Officer reminded participants of the objectives of the meeting according to the Agenda Items outlined, and informed about the Side Event organized by the Caribbean Netherlands on sharks and the shark species proposed to be listed under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING****2.1. Rules of Procedure**

12. The Meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* the Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention). (See Reference Document UNEP, 2010)



## **2.2. Election of Officers**

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

Chairperson: Billy Causey (U.S.A)  
Vice-Chairperson: Thomas Nelson (St. Lucia)  
Rapporteur: Isabelle Gergon (France)

## **2.3. Organization of Work**

14. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting and simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided. The working documents of the Meeting were also available in all the working languages. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting was presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/INF.1, and is included as Annex II to this report.
15. The Chairperson reminded the Meeting that if necessary it was possible to convene in plenary sessions with the assistance of working groups, which could 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 and 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. The Meeting was convened in plenary session.

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

16. During the adoption of the Agenda the Secretariat informed the Meeting about changes under Agenda Item 5, following the request by the Government of Colombia to remove their protected areas included in the list for consideration by the Parties.
17. The Meeting was 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 was presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/1. The Agenda as approved by the Meeting is contained in Annex I.

### **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**

18. The Chairperson invited Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury of the Secretariat to present "Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2015-2016" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3). In her presentation she drew attention to its four (4) Annexes:
- Annex I: Status of Budget for the SPAW Programme for 2015-2016;

- Annex II: Summary of Funds Provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for the Implementation of SPAW Activities;
  - Annex III: Status of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol); and
  - Annex IV: Status of the Decisions of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP8).
19. She reiterated that during the period 2015-2016, activities continued to focus on assisting Parties and a number of other countries with the management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and on promoting the Ecosystem Based Approach and other tools. Additionally, work also focused on as coordinating with other environmental agreements and programmes dealing with biodiversity issues of particular relevance to the SPAW Protocol such as CBD, Ramsar, IWC, IAC and ICRI.
20. The day-to-day coordination for implementation of the programme activities continued to be overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who is responsible for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme, with support from the SPAW Programme Assistant and the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. Specific activities for the 2015-2016 Workplan fell under five (5) major programme elements(sub-programmes):
- a) Programme Coordination;
  - b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for marine protected areas management) and finalization of the project in support of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative;
  - c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
  - d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species; and
  - e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including coral reefs and Invasive Alien Species activities and implementation of CLME project components).
21. During the presentation the Secretariat also made reference to the following on major areas of work and their supporting documents:
- 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 ongoing Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5);
  - Evaluation of CaMPAM activities and recommendations for improvement (UNEP WG.38/INF.6);
  - “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management” project funded by the government of Italy (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.8);
  - 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)/CARWG.38/INF.16 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.18 );
  - The GCRMN-Caribbean network and guidelines (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.17);

- 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 Subprogrammes (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7).
22. In keeping with the objectives of developing synergies, promoting the Protocol and optimizing resources, the following activities were completed during the biennium:
- Supported bird species conservation in collaboration with BirdsCaribbean. The SPAW Programme Officer delivered a presentation on the SPAW Protocol and Programme to the Carib Bird Education Network on the occasion of the Caribbean Bird Festival via a *Free Webinar on Caribbean Endemic Birds*, under the theme “*Spread Your Wings for Bird Conservation*”, 5 May 2016.
  - A Memorandum of Cooperation with the Sargasso Sea Commission is under discussion with a view to enhance collaborations with this initiative.
  - Cooperation established with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (with support from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) ) and CITES via participation in the *Caribbean Regional Wildlife Enforcement Workshop* on illegal trafficking of species, held in the Bahamas, 20 - 22 July 2016, which brought together experts and government officials from the region to discuss and identify key threats and recommendations in relation to wildlife crime with a view to strengthening and enhancing regional cooperation and enforcement through the creation of a *Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network* (CaribWEN).
  - Participation in the Ramsar Convention’s 5<sup>th</sup> *Meeting of the Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Caribbean Wetlands- Cariwet* held in St. Lucia, 5 August 2016, where a presentation was delivered on the SPAW Protocol and Programme by the SPAW-RAC.
  - Participation in the UNEP/CMS and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariats’ *First Regional Capacity Building Workshop for CMS Non-Parties of the Caribbean Region*, held in Barbados 31 August - 2 September 2016 aimed at informing Non-Parties of the Caribbean Region about the work and goals of the Convention and how to accede to the treaty. The presentation was delivered on the SPAW Protocol and Programme by the UNEP-CEP Coordinator.
23. Ms. Vanzella-Khoury informed the Meeting about activities undertaken to strengthen marine protected areas in the Region through CaMPAM (see UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.38/INF.5). These were primarily implemented under i) the Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN Project) which is led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, and aims to promote effective marine managed areas in the Insular Caribbean and associated countries; and ii) the Italian funded “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management” which through information management, training and application of tools like Decision Support System (DSS), is enhancing integrated management of multi-use areas with multi-sectoral and relevant stakeholders involvement.

24. The Secretariat reported briefly on the assessment of Protected Areas proposed for listing by Parties, as contained in the document "Proposals for Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5). It was noted that there were currently thirty-one (31) protected areas listed under the SPAW Protocol stemming from COP7 and COP8 respectively, with one (1) new proposed protected area. Limited availability of resources during the biennium resulted in the postponement of several activities within the dedicated cooperation programme for PAs listed under the Protocol.
25. As a result there are plans for the SPAW Secretariat together with the SPAW RAC and CaMPAM to work on collaboration and fundraising for the 2017-2018 biennium to reactivate the cooperation programme for SPAW listed-sites. A new call was launched in July 2016, for managers of SPAW listed sites to identify the most relevant activities to be planned according to their priorities and current needs, and also to update the list of activities developed during the last meeting of the SPAW listed protected areas at GCFI 2013 (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.9) (See Agenda Item 5).
26. The Secretariat invited Ms. Sandrine Pivard, Director of SPAW-RAC since September 2016 in replacement of Ms. Anne Fontaine, to present an update on the additional support received from the SPAW-RAC to meet the objectives of this sub-programme.
27. In her presentation, Ms. Pivard recalled that the SPAW-RAC was located in Guadeloupe, FWI and has been hosted since 2009 by the National Park of Guadeloupe. The functioning costs of the RAC are covered by the French Government, including salaries for: a Director, one Senior Project Coordinator and one Administrative Assistant. She noted that this team was supplemented by an initial short-term staff of five (later four) persons, which included four Project Coordinators (with one contract ending in mid-2016), and one Administrative Assistant. The salaries for three of these posts were covered through two (2) specific projects: the Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST III) and ECMMAN; the other two by the funding through the French government.
28. Ms. Pivard highlighted that the RAC supported the Secretariat with various activities, especially the actions mandated by SPAW COP8 regarding: the listing of protected areas under SPAW with the relevant working group; the implementation of priorities within the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (MMAP); support to activities for the conservation of endangered species; coordination of the activities and strategy for the control of invasive species such as the lionfish; coordination of the working group on criteria and a procedure to assess exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol, as well as the application of criteria for listing species under the Annexes to the Protocol; and the review and translation of a number of documents. A website was maintained in three (3) languages (English, French and Spanish), and a quarterly newsletter issued with six (6) issues to date (see UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.38/INF.4).
29. She summarized, additional activities developed by the RAC upon request and funding from the Government of France that were also complimentary to the objectives and actions of the SPAW Workplan including supporting the revitalization of the GCRMN in the Wider Caribbean; mangrove conservation, implementation of a Blue Finance Project; and sharing regional data across the region regarding the Sargassum influx in partnership with relevant institutions.
30. Ms. Vanzella-Khoury presented on CaMPAM's major activities for the biennium given the unavoidable absence of CaMPAM Coordinator Dr. Georgina Bustamante. In the presentation she outlined the two (2) major capacity building initiatives that were implemented via the Training of Trainers regional course (English and Spanish) , as well as the communication and information activities and implementation of the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grants programme (mentioned

above). The numerous outputs of CaMPAM during the biennium are detailed in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5.

31. Complementary to the work of the Secretariat on marine mammals the Chairperson gave a presentation on behalf of Dr. Nathalie Ward, from NOAA's Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary (SBNMS). The presentation highlighted the North Atlantic Humpback Whale Sister Sanctuary Program (NAHW-SSP) initiated in 2006 by NOAA's SBNMS with the objective of increasing protection of a shared population of North Atlantic humpback whales. It was noted that the NAHW-SSP had formal international agreements under the framework of UNEP-SPAW with a number of Contracting Parties (e.g. Dominican Republic, France and the Caribbean Netherlands) and was the first and largest distributed network to protect humpback whales at both ends of their migration. Additionally, in 2014, the SSP launched CARIB Tails, a citizen science program aimed at enlisting yachters and cruisers to take fluke photographs of humpback whales to contribute to the North Atlantic Humpback Whale Catalog database to determine their favored breeding grounds.
32. Mr. Ferdy Lousy, President of the National Parc of Guadeloupe on behalf of the Government of France, presented an update on the re-introduction of the West Indian manatee in Guadeloupe. The presentation outlined conservation benefits, milestones of the project, and briefs of the project and its science and management.
33. The Secretariat presented an overview on status of implementation of the GEF/UNDP Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME+) (see documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.7 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7) noting progress on the revitalization of the GCRMN in the Wider Caribbean. The Secretariat on behalf of the GRMN-Caribbean Steering Group, then presented a short introductory video of the GCRMN-Caribbean Initiative and the work being done on the sustained monitoring of coral reefs in the Caribbean involving both regional and international experts.
34. The Secretariat invited Dr. Ligia Collado-Vides, consultant who conducted the evaluation of CaMPAM's last 15 years of work (see document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.6), to make a presentation on the main findings and recommendations for its further development and improvement. It was noted that since its establishment CaMPAM had played a leadership role in building capacity at the MPA ground level. The network created a forum and Email-List to strengthen communications among MPA managers and practitioners, as well as serving as a source of information about events, opportunities, and research findings related with the management of MPAs in the region. CaMPAM had built capacity through its ToT programme, including local follow up training activities and its mentorship programme. In addition CaMPAM had supported attendance to annual MPA sessions at the GCFI meetings, as well as addressing local needs through dedicated grants. To maintain its leadership and services, it was recommended that a revamped Executive and Advisory Team update its strategic plan. Part of the strategic plan should include the redesign of the forum's Email-List, maintaining the ToT with relevant updates, developing short thematic courses, online training, and the increased use of technology in teaching and for networking.
35. In closing the Secretariat reminded the Meeting about the challenges faced during the biennium to implement activities mandated by the Parties given the financial and human resources constraints faced by the Secretariat - all activities implemented were funded through external sources to the Caribbean Trust Fund. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat and supporting partners for their comprehensive and informative presentations. He then invited the Meeting to provide any comments on the activities implemented and to make the necessary recommendations.

36. The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands inquired about the CTF and why funds were not sufficient to meet the demands of the work of the Secretariat.
37. The Secretariat explained that there had been no increase in the voluntary contributions to the CTF over the past six (6) years, in addition several member States were in arrears, and they were also not paying on time which therefore had implications for the overall budget.
38. The delegate from the Dominican Republic (DR) congratulated the Secretariat on its excellent work considering limited resources, indicated the desire to work to continue working with the Secretariat more in the implementation of the Italian funded EBM project, and congratulated the National Parc of Guadeloupe and France on their accomplishments with their efforts to reintroduce the West Indian manatee.
39. The delegate from Colombia also acknowledged the work of the Secretariat and its accomplishments over the last biennium. She expressed Colombia's desire to continue working alongside the Secretariat in keeping with the important work being done on marine mammals, in particular on whales, as her country also works extensively on their conservation in the Pacific. Of priority was also the need to join efforts for the restoration of marine ecosystems and mangroves, along with the need to call attention to focused efforts that would give a clear idea for restoration activities. She noted that there were currently major efforts underway in Colombia to recover shallow reef areas.
40. The delegate from the USA called attention to the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals noting the sperm whale (eastern Caribbean population) decline which was of concern and that more support and regional cooperation was needed. It was recommended that efforts be made to seek additional funding sources and hoped that SPAW could support these efforts as this was an urgent need for the near future.
41. The delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands endorsed the USA's position on sperm whales offering collaborative support towards these efforts though noting not necessarily being able to provide financial support. He congratulated the presentations made especially regarding the CaMPAM, its good evaluation after fifteen (15) years of such substantive work, and supported the recommendations proposed.
42. He further informed the meeting of the Dutch initiative to establish a marine mammal sanctuary, on Saba and Bonaire specifically for marine mammals and sharks with a focus on additional regulations. He noted current partnerships via the Sister Sanctuaries Program between the USA and the Caribbean Netherlands (e.g. the Yarari Marine Mammal Sanctuary), including discussions for a MoU with the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and another with the Dominican Republic. He applauded the work on the GCRMN-Caribbean promising continued support for the initiative and provisional training for Bonaire, alongside working with the SPAW-RAC under the CARIMAM Project.
43. The delegate of France thanked the USA for hosting the meeting and the Secretariat, the SPAW-RAC and all Parties for the work provided under the SPAW Protocol. She applauded the presentation on the activities of the programme and the excellent work being accomplished and was grateful for the support provided by the SPAW-RAC despite the challenges. She highlighted France's interest in working alongside the USA on the initiatives mentioned above and expressed a willingness to share information and provide support where feasible. Also noted were France's initiatives for the protection of coral reefs (IFRECOR) which had adopted a national program for 2016-2020 in addition to France's recent designation as Chair of the ICRI. Other initiatives

highlighted included work on mangroves and wetlands (including a reforestation plan for Guadeloupe where 18 hectares of forest will be rehabilitated).

44. The delegate of Colombia acknowledged the importance of the GCRMN-Caribbean highlighting the involvement of Colombia through its work on coral reefs.

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

45. The Chairman invited the Secretariat and Mr. Franck Gourdin, 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 the report of the Working Group (document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5) and following Decision 2 of the SPAW COP8 (Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014).
46. In his report Mr. Gourdin outlined that limited resources during the past biennium resulted in the postponement of several activities planned under the Cooperation Programme for the existing listed sites under the Protocol. The Secretariat together with the SPAW-RAC and CaMPAM, were currently working on further collaboration and fundraising for the 2017-2018 biennium to reactivate the Cooperation Programme.
47. With regard to new sites for listing, Mr. Gourdin highlighted that in March 2016, the Secretariat invited SPAW Contracting Parties to propose additional protected areas for listing under the SPAW Protocol for STAC7 review. He noted that one (1) protected area had been proposed for listing - the National Park Cayos de San Felipe in Cuba, and this proposal had been reviewed by the Working Group intersessionally in keeping with the agreed revised criteria and procedure and as per Decision 2 of COP8. He added that an evaluation grid was under development to facilitate the review of these proposed areas by the Working Group.
48. The Meeting was invited to provide their comments on the Working Group report on the proposed protected area for listing and to make recommendations to the SPAW COP9 in 2017.
49. The delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands thanked the SPAW-RAC for its presentation and commended the proposal from Cuba. He noted the volume of work which was required to evaluate if an area was suitable for protection, and that the SPAW-RAC had done a great job. He recommended exploring the option to link the listed protected areas with Google Earth as it would be a good way to promote SPAW and give persons greater access to viewing these sites.
50. The delegation of the USA also offered support for the proposal from Cuba. It was believed that this addition from Cuba was also important to enhance marine science and conservation, and bilateral relations, especially considering Cuba's proximity to the United States. The USA also expressed their support and willingness to actively engage in the reactivation of the Ad hoc Working Group and Cooperation Programme for listed sites
51. The delegate of the Dominican Republic thanked the technical team for the evaluation and also supported the addition of the site from Cuba to the existing list towards increasing the PA network under the SPAW Protocol. He noted his country's extensive PA network, and linkages with the biological corridor between Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

52. The delegate from St. Lucia noted that they will welcome less focus on the addition of more MPAs to the list, and expressed the desire to see more focus on strengthening the management of the existing PAs, as well as welcoming the recommendation for the evaluation of performance of some of these areas. He acknowledged that several areas were limited by resources and therefore supported the reactivation of the WG to evaluate the performance of current areas, and determine how they can be strengthened to address their needs, thereby making them more effective in serving their purpose.
53. The delegation of France thanked the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC for their work and also supported the addition of Cuba's proposed PA to the SPAW listed sites. The delegation noted the comments made and they welcomed the establishment of a process to review and report on the status of the listed areas. In this context she suggested periodic reviews of listed areas under the SPAW Protocol (e.g. every (six) 6 years) as done under the Protocols of other international conventions (e.g. Barcelona Convention), and as such, the experience from the Mediterranean could be taken into account. She offered to provide additional information in this regard to the Secretariat.
54. The delegate from the CRFM spoke to the recently held 16<sup>th</sup> WECAFC meeting wherein MPAs were discussed and recognized as tools for responsible fisheries and sustainable livelihoods as provided for under the FAO Technical Guidelines on MPA and Fisheries. As such, it was noted that there was a need to take a more '*people-centered*' approach in the establishment and management of MPAs, while taking into account that access to fisheries resources was fundamental in the livelihood of fishing communities – also highlighted by the WECAFC was the need for secure access by fishing communities to the resources on which their livelihoods depended in accordance with the FAO Tenure Guidelines and the Guidelines for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. It was recommended that regional collaboration between fisheries, environment and resource users be strengthened in respect to MPAs and fisheries management.
55. The delegate of the Dominican Republic added that a protected area was not to be limited by only the people element, and that the true purpose of a protected through proper management plans should not be considered a hindrance to fisheries activities.
56. With regard to reporting on PAs, the Secretariat noted that guidance is given to Parties under Article 19 of the Protocol which requires periodic updates on the listed protected areas, but without an explicit timeframe. The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands recalled the current reporting process being established under the Cartagena Convention for Parties to report on all aspects of the Convention using a particular format.
57. The Dominican Republic acknowledged the comments from France and believed that a standard evaluation could be used similar to the requirements used for UNESCO biospheres.
58. The Meeting agreed that a standard evaluation for protected areas listed could be prepared and it was suggested that this be accommodated via the Ad hoc Working Group. The UNESCO biosphere evaluation process was another example mentioned for consideration in this regard.
59. The delegate of the CRFM acknowledged the comments of the Secretariat on the increased collaboration between the different fisheries bodies in the Caribbean. He noted that OSPESCA, CRFM and WECAFC have been working closely together, and signed a MoU earlier in the year thereby strengthening relations which could further aid in efforts for harmonization. Greater collaboration with UNEP-CEP will also be strengthened through the CLME+ Project.



60. In closing, the Observer of the TNC supported the idea of the evaluation and reporting requirement, while reiterating that it was important to remember that many sites were limited by resources and thus will require assistance to meet those reporting requirement. She highlighted the work of the ECMANN project in this regard.

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

61. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to report on the work undertaken since COP8 and present 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). Proposals for listing included species of sharks and rays, the Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*), a bird species (*Passerina ciris*), and a tree gastropod (*Liguus fasciatus*). Proposals also included moving listed species from Annex II to III and vice versa.
62. The Secretariat invited the SPAW-RAC Director to make the presentation in this regard. In her presentation, Ms. Pivard highlighted that following COP8 the Annexes of the Protocol were updated with the number of species currently reflected in the documents presented: Annex I with 53 plant species, Annex II with 114 species including all sea turtles and marine mammals of the region, and Annex III with 43 plant species and 32 animal species. She noted that 131 species listed under SPAW were listed in other international instruments which included 21 species in the Annexes of CMS (Bonn Convention); 77 species in the Appendices of CITES (Washington Convention); and 33 in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation.
63. Progress regarding the Working Group on the application of Criteria for listing species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol was provided. In order to finalize the review and refinement of the initial list of species for the inclusion in the Annexes, a short list of species was produced during the biennium by the dedicated Working Group, including additional species or groups of species, in collaboration with the IUCN's Red List for the Caribbean. (See Report of the UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/4) (see also UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF. 7 Addenda 1 & 2, WG.36/INF. 12 and WG.36/INF. 13 )
64. In closing, Ms. Pivard recalled the approved procedures for including new species according to Article 11 (4) of SPAW Protocol and the required information to be included in proposals for listing species. She recalled the ten (10) species listed at COP8 which included four (4) reef building corals under Annex II (*Acropora cervicornis*, *Acropora palmata*, *Orbicella annularis* and *Orbicella faveolata*), 3 bird species (The black-capped petrel and Bicknell's thrush (Annex II) and the white-crowned pigeon (Annex II)), and 3 plant species under Annex II (*Guaiaacum sanctum*, *Ekmanianthe longiflora* and *Bombacopsis emarginata*).
65. The Meeting was invited to provide comments or interventions on the proposals and make recommendations to the SPAW COP9 in 2017.
66. The delegate of France thanked all Parties for the work done on the new species proposals. She recalled the work of the Working Group and the remarkable work which had been undertaken. She recommended that the Group be re-launched to continue the work of compiling proposals from Parties and their review, for presentation at the next STAC in 2018. She reiterated that her country will participate actively in the Group and the need to strengthen synergies at the regional level, in

particular to pool scientific data on the state of conservation of species (with a view of proposing new species for adoption).

67. The delegate of France sought clarification on the recommendation to transfer the Cuban amazon (*Amazona leucocephala*) and American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) from Annex II (strict protection) to Annex III (management measures). In the absence of justification for the state of conservation of the species, it was noted that it did not seem appropriate to reduce the level of protection. Support was voiced regarding the transfer of the West Indian Whistling duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*) from Annex III to Annex II, and the addition of Painted bunting (*Passerina ciris*) to Annex II and as such, accepted the proposal of the Government of Cuba subject to compliance by the COP with the guidelines for the adoption of new species, and the transmission of adequate scientific justification.
68. The Meeting agreed to consider the proposals in detail. The delegate of the Dominican Republic noted that the American Crocodile was a vulnerable species with specific reproductive areas in the region. As such, it was the desire of the Dominican Republic to have specific information/justification for removing this species from Annex II to III. The delegate highlighted that this iconic species in the Caribbean already had a limited population in the Dominican Republic. Given that international protection for the species was being strengthened, the delegate expressed a lack of understanding regarding the argument for reducing the level of protection at this stage under the Protocol.
69. The delegate of the USA revisited the work done by the WG since the last COP, which included the updated procedure for listing. She also supported the request by the Dominican Republic.
70. The delegate of the CRFM expressed concerns regarding species that were the subject of commercial focus within fisheries sector, stating that it was important to have dialogue with stakeholders to best determine how to move forward with decisions for some of these species
71. The delegate of St. Lucia in relation to the list presented, stated that their delegation was not in receipt of the referenced email from the Secretariat, and was concerned about some of the proposed species to be listed particularly in Annex II - considering that some of these species had commercial and cultural significance especially as it related to livelihood. In light of this, he expressed concern about the feedback requested and expected that further discussion could take place on these proposals.
72. The delegate of Guyana thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and noted the Wildlife Management and Conservation Regulations in Guyana wherein many of the species listed were already protected. Regarding the two (2) Species of Hammerhead sharks, the delegate queried whether the possibility existed to allow further time for consultation with the relevant authorities having only just received a notification from CITES for review, prior to the STAC meeting.
73. The Secretariat thanked both St. Lucia and Guyana for their comments and clarified that the process for listing was approved by Parties in keeping with the Decisions of COP8 and implemented accordingly. In specific response to Guyana's request, the Secretariat voiced its support and stated that it would be possible to explore further dialogue and consultation with consensus from the group (prior to COP9), in addition to inclusion in the recommendations of the Meeting.
74. It was clarified by the delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands, that species listed under the SPAW Protocol were not linked to CITES. Although there was the desire to harmonize, these were very

different instruments in their own right. He recalled the details concerning protection granted under Annex III, noting that it was not unreasonable to ask Parties to take steps to regulate capture of these species to prevent their extinction, particularly if a species was under pressure. Notwithstanding, he underscored that as long as a species was threatened, it could be placed under Annex II irrespective of CITES listing. He reminded the Meeting of the purpose of the SPAW Protocol - which was to prevent species from going extinct - as such it was important not to focus on commercial regulations for fishing or by catch, as this was not the primary issue concerning SPAW Parties and therefore should not be the focus.

75. The delegation of the e USA outlined the details for the proposal of the Nassau grouper under Annex III which included: 1) spawning aggregations which made the species vulnerable to harvest; 2) the fact that the Nassau grouper was susceptible to over exploitation; 3) migration patterns were hundreds of kilometres to spawning sites crossing jurisdictional boundaries; 4) larval survival in the water column was for up to 40 days which therefore resulted in them being carried by currents throughout the Wider Caribbean; 5) regulations to limit fishing at aggregation sites has resulted in increased abundance; and 6) there was the need for regional regulations with commitment for enforcement to protect spawning individuals.
76. The delegate of the Bahamas thanked the USA for the presentation noting that Bahamas currently had sustainable fisheries regulations in place considering the traditional and commercial value of this species. The months of December to February were marked as the closed season and there was on-going research on spawning aggregation in order to strengthen sustainable management. As a commercially valuable and iconic species which was on the decline, the Bahamas therefore welcomed joint efforts on measures for better management, but also required further national discussions on the proposal, and so would be unable to state a position on the USA proposal at this time.
77. The delegates of Colombia and the Caribbean Netherlands voiced their support for the proposal by the USA, with the Caribbean Netherlands urging the Bahamas to look specifically at the technical components towards making a decision for COP9 as the STAC was not the applicable forum.
78. The delegation of the Dominican Republic acknowledged the current pressures on the Nassau grouper and looked favourably on the proposal of the USA with the understanding that joint efforts were needed to reduce these pressures.
79. The delegate of France shared information pertaining to a large increase of the species in Martinique after three (3) years of careful management.
80. The Secretariat acknowledged these comments noting that there were commercial species already listed under Annex III of the Protocol (e.g. the spiny lobster and Queen conch), and that the Secretariat worked with the various regional fisheries bodies to coordinate and monitor the status of those species
81. The delegate of the CRFM highlighted that stocks for these species were diminishing (confirmed by existing data) and there have been several consultations in the past to address this. With due consideration, Annex III was not an appropriate option as this afforded too much flexibility. In general, there was the need for better management and coordination of efforts which Parties should endeavour to work on.

82. Mr. Paul Hoetjes, on behalf of the Caribbean Netherlands, was then invited to give a presentation on the five (5) shark and three (3) ray species proposed for listing under Annex II and III of the SPAW Protocol.
83. Several delegations voiced support for the proposal by the Caribbean Netherlands in addition to the need to establish regulations for the fisheries, while noting that there had been similar discussions on this matter during the last CITES COP17 to include two (2) species of rays.
84. The delegate of the USA noted that the smalltooth sawfish has been listed as an endangered species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act for a number of years, and therefore agreed that there was sufficient scientific information provided in the smalltooth sawfish proposal to meet the criteria for an Annex II listing. She however expressed some concerns as to whether there was sufficient scientific information provided in the whale shark proposal, particularly from the Caribbean, to meet the criteria for an Annex II listing.
85. Similarly, a number of delegations also supported the proposal of the Caribbean Netherlands with comments. The delegate of Colombia welcomed the proposals highlighting the participation of her Government in the CITES Working Group on sharks, serving as Chair, and the work as a proponent and co-proponent of many of these species to COP16 of CITES in Thailand, and their support to include proposals in COP17 of CITES in Johannesburg, South Africa. Likewise, she highlighted the work undertaken in Colombia with the support of FAO within the framework of certification in training for identification of sharks fins (CITES Appendix II) with different institutions, and the work on fleshing out tariffs codes at the national level for shark meat and fins. In light of the above, she supported the proposal of the Netherlands in its entirety, with the exception of the White tip oceanic shark, which she recommended be included in Annex III in order to be consistent with what had been presented and supported at CITES. The delegate of the Dominican Republic supported these comments.
86. The delegate of the CRFM agreed that further discussions and consultations would be needed especially as it related to the species of sharks proposed before they could offer support.
87. The delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands encouraged Observers to also provide their inputs, not just Parties, having worked closely with a number of them on the species proposed.
88. The Observer from the Sealife Law Centre expressed the urgent need for listing the species proposed and supported the proposal.
89. The delegate from St. Lucia welcomed discussion of the proposed list of species individually, noting further their importance to the economy of St. Lucia. Given that there was not enough feedback concerning the sharks, there were reservations and as such St. Lucia could not offer support in light of this.
90. The USA offered support for two (2) of the species proposed - the Painted bunting (*Passerina ciris*), and the Florida tree snail (*Liguus fasciatus*), but requested further details on the remaining proposals.
91. The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands highlighted that the American crocodile was already listed under CITES and should not be moved to Annex III. Support was offered for the proposed listing of the West Indian Whistling duck and the Cuban amazon. There was general consensus by the Meeting on not moving the American crocodile from Annex II.

92. Both the delegations of the USA and France offered opposition to the proposal of the Cuban amazon to be listed under Annex III of the Protocol.
93. France proposed the further need for a discussion on management measures and solutions in cases where certain native species protected by the Protocol are considered in other territories, to be invasive alien species (e.g. the green iguana), due to their exogenous character. Given that the proliferation of these species in non-native territories may have environmental and economic consequences. Parties in these territories are obliged to take steps to control them. As such, their status as a protected species under the SPAW Protocol in their native areas may pose a conflict. If there were similar experiences among the delegates, France would be interested in hearing the measures taken and also in creating a Working Group to address this.
94. In response, the delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands clarified that the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol only addressed species that were native in the wild, a sentiment supported by the delegate from the USA.
95. Following the discussions, the Meeting agreed on the species recommended for listing under Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol for approval by COP9 as reflected in the Recommendations of the Meeting (Annex III to this Report).

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

96. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the document “Draft Reporting Format for Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of The Specially Protected Areas And Wildlife Protocol (SPAW)” (UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.38/3). This document reflected the format proposed by the Working Group since its re-establishment following Decision 4 of the SPAW COP8 (9 December 2014) and included a proposal for exemption from the Government of Curaçao as case study on the format.
97. This was followed by a presentation from Mr. Faisal Dilrosun, the delegate of Curaçao regarding the case study on the format from the Government of Curaçao.
98. The Meeting was invited to review the reporting format and to provide recommendations for approval by SPAW COP9 in 2017.
99. The delegate of Colombia thanked Curaçao for the presentation on the application of the draft format and further recommended that some degree of standardization for the evaluation of EIAs be considered. She highlighted that precise criteria must be identified to clarify mitigation, compensation and corrective measures noting that some sections of the format were very vague and allowed for very unspecific responses.
100. The delegate of the USA expressed appreciation for the work on the format, but queried if it was possible to have some flexibility given that similar submissions from the USA would include extensive impact statements, species assessments and scientific reports for the required information.
101. The delegate of France congratulated the Working Group on the format and thanked the Government of Curaçao for the information submitted while supporting the sentiments from Colombia. The delegates sought to highlight some sections for review - specifically ensuring that

exemption requests were in line with Article 11(2) of the Protocol and timely notifications were made to the Secretariat to enable the STAC to assess the relevance of the proposed exemption. With regard to the exemption case study presented by Curacao, the delegate requested additional information on the current status of activities (calendar of activities) and asked whether consideration was given to specific conservation measures to reduce overall impacts (e.g. coral replanting strategies) versus compensation measures. Pending further in-depth discussions and a more careful review of the legal elements, as there were some reservations regarding the exemption request, it was noted that France would endeavour to provide some additional feedback before the end of the year.

102. The delegate of Curaçao clarified that work on the second mega pier had not yet commenced and further, no authorization via the exemption request had been granted. He noted that the pertinent legislation was being finalized.
103. The delegate of the USA explained that they had a different interpretation of the management measures and the species concerned according to the terms of the Protocol, and also, had reservations regarding outcomes from the last COP – *Curaçao in response stated that the protected area in question would be well managed.*
104. Ms. Vanzella-Khouri on behalf of the Secretariat highlighted that the guidelines document responded to issues of management and provided guidance in this regard.
105. The Observer from the Animal Welfare Institute called attention to their involvement with the Working Group in preparing the format and agreed with the proposal for another WG to aid in preliminary assessment by the Parties.
106. It was highlighted further by the delegate of Colombia that if possible, some of the questions should be formulated differently especially those concerning mitigation measures, which as highlighted by France, did not include consideration for specific compensatory or other corrective measures – this could lead to a different outcome in reviewing the exemption request. She also noted that since exemptions-authorization were managed at the regional scale and not at the national level, then there is a need for consultation
107. The Meeting was reminded that the reporting format was not yet approved as input from the Parties was required.
108. The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands highlighted the complexity of Curaçao's exemption request given the broad range of species involved (not only corals), but overall, the format should not be made too difficult for countries to report.
109. The delegate of the USA voiced support regarding further discussions via the WG and requested additional time to consider Curacao's exemption request.
110. The Meeting agreed to extend the mandate of the Working Group intersessionally and the delegates from USA, France and Colombia agreed to join, in addition to the existing members of the Group.
111. These points were acknowledged by the delegate of Curaçao. He reminded the Meeting that as the protected area in question was fully funded by the public sector, there was an urgent need to provide feedback on the exemption.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE  
2017-2018 BIENNIUM**

112. The Chairperson invited Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri of the Secretariat to present the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2017-2018 Biennium” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.38/6), 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 2015-2016 Workplan for SPAW and other relevant emerging regional and international issues.
113. The Meeting was invited to review the draft Workplan, prioritize activities, and make recommendations to assist with its finalization prior to being adopted by SPAW COP9, 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, in March 2017, respectively.
114. The participants were 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.
115. The importance of identifying gaps in representativeness and biological connectivity within the PAs listed, alongside the value added of being a listed site was highlighted by the delegate of the USA. It was recommended that incentives be clearly demonstrated to promote the benefits for listing and that the USA would volunteer to work with the SPAW-RAC towards coordinating activities with the WG.
116. The delegate of Guyana commented on threats to marine mammals in their country, issues surrounding offshore oil exploration and exploitation and the existing EIA process. It was recommended that there was a need for improved guidelines (e.g. for seismic surveys) to protect the marine resources and address concerns by stakeholders regarding the severity of the impacts from oil exploration.
117. The representative of the CLME+ inquired about paragraph 44 of the Workplan and whether there was an omission of an activity in relation to the contributions from SPAW, along with the inputs from the LBS. for the State of the Marine Environment (SOME) report that will be developed under the CLME+ Project. The Secretariat explained that while not explicitly included in the SPAW Workplan, it is a broader activity of the CEP aligned with the report on the Status of the Area of the Convention (SOCAR) under the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
118. The delegate of the Dominican Republic called attention to the successful use of the Protocol and its application for whale watching guidelines in places such as Samaná Bay. It was recommended that the Parties work together considering the number of stakeholders in the region, particularly using mechanisms such as the training of trainers to disseminate lessons learnt.
119. The Secretariat acknowledged these comments noting the positive experience in Samaná and the need to share the lessons from this area at a regional scale.

120. The delegate of Colombia highlighted their existing guidelines for sharks, marine mammals, lionfish and other invasive species which might be useful to share in creating synergies between Parties.
121. The delegate of the CRFM noted the impact of Sargassum on the fisheries in the region and the fact that this was an agenda item at the most recent CARICOM Heads of Government Conference where a protocol was developed to respond to the influx – this could be useful for other countries. Other areas of priority highlighted for the region included - the need to develop contingency measures to protect dolphins from accidental take; implementation of management plans for species such as the spiny lobster and Queen conch; IUU fishing; and advancing discussion and consultations concerning the parrot fish and sea cucumber to understand the status of these species.
122. The Chairperson acknowledged the importance of evaluating stocks and supported more collaboration via SPAW and CaMPAM.
123. The Observer from the ACS congratulated the work of the Secretariat and noted their collaboration concerning the Sargassum influx which was expected to continue with SPAW Parties through the Secretariat. Specific areas of focus would be on research and developing skills, along with best management practices and the development of a guide in three (3) languages which could be shared.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: EMERGING ISSUES**

124. The Chairperson invited the Meeting to consider relevant emerging issues such those relating to Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG14 on oceans, UNEA2 outcomes and the SAMOA Pathway for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
125. There were no comments from the Meeting on this agenda item.

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

126. Participants were invited to raise any other issues not covered by the preceding agenda items, but which were relevant to the scope of the Meeting. There were no comments on this agenda item.

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

127. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the draft recommendations of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/7). The Meeting was invited to approve the recommendations, with amendments and corrections introduced as appropriate. After considerable discussion relating particularly to Recommendations I and III, the recommendations were approved as contained in Annex III and forwarded for approval by the SPAW COP9 in 2017 for adoption.
128. The Rapporteur reminded delegates that the recommendations would be circulated for further review and comment after the STAC.



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

129. The Head of US Delegation, Ms. Rona Rathod thanked the Secretariat for the opportunity to host the meeting and thanked the Chairperson.
130. On behalf of the Secretariat and UNEP, the Coordinator, Ms. Lorna Inniss, thanked the Chairperson and the Rapporteur for their dedication and efforts during the Meeting. She equally thanked the Member Governments, Observers and partners while acknowledging their valuable contribution.
131. In closing, Ms. Inniss expressed her gratitude to the personnel from the USA as the host Government responsible for coordinating the meeting, Manomet, the CLME+ Coordination Unit, the Government of the Caribbean Netherlands for the Side Event on Sharks, the staff of the SPAW-RAC, the Staff of the Biltmore Hotel, and The Cakov Group for its interpretation services.
132. Mr. Patrick Debels, Regional Project Coordinator for the GEF-CLME+ spoke briefly on the project reaffirming joint implementation of activities and coordination between the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes.
133. Ms. Vanzella-Khoury on behalf of the Secretariat recognized the outstanding conservationist Mr. Milton M. Kaufmann (deceased) and his important role in the architecture of the SPAW Protocol. She noted he had unselfishly dedicated a great part of his life to the conservation of the environment and in particular marine life in the Wider Caribbean. He was the founder and for many year, the motor behind the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST). He had supported SPAW objectives since its inception and was fondly missed by the Secretariat and conservation community in the region. The passing of Ms. Mona George-Dill in October (prior to the Meetings) was also acknowledged with sadness noting the integral role she played in the conservation of whales and protected areas in Dominica and neighbouring islands.
134. Ms. Vanzella-Khoury noted the departure of Franck Gourdin of the SPAW-RAC in keeping with the completion of his tenure. She acknowledged his very important role at the RAC in helping the SPAW Programme accomplish its work, in particular with regard to the listing of protected areas under the Protocol.
135. The Meeting was closed on Friday, 4 November 2016 at 3:40 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Meeting and the Secretariat.

**ANNEX I - PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
  - 2.1. Rules of Procedure
  - 2.2. Election of Officers
  - 2.3. Organisation of Work
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2015-2016, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe
5. Protected Areas proposed by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol
6. Species proposed by Contracting Parties for listing under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol
7. Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group
8. Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2017-2018 Biennium
9. Emerging Issues (e.g. Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction)
10. Other Business
11. Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting
12. Closure of the Meeting

**ANNEX II - 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 WG.38/1	Provisional Agenda	1-3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3	Draft Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas And Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) - Annex ( <i>includes case study from the Government of Curaçao</i> )	7
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.38/4 Addendum 1	- List of Species of Marine and Coastal Flora Strictly Protected under the SPAW Protocol in Annex I	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5	Proposals for Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5- Addendum 1	Map of SPAW protected areas already listed in 2012 and 2014, and protected areas to be listed	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/6	Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Subprogramme for the 2017-2018 Biennium	8-9
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/7	Recommendations 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, Colombia, 2 - 4 November 2016( <i>to be prepared during the meeting</i> )	11

**Information Documents**

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents	1
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants ( <i>to be prepared during the meeting</i> )	1
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3	Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2015-2016 (includes status of STAC6 Recommendations and COP8 Decisions)	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>	4,8
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, Agenda item point 6</i> )	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.8	Factsheet on the “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management” Project	4,8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.9	Sargassum Management Brief - <i>Golden Tides: 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
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
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.14	Caribbean Sargassum Summary Factsheet	4,8
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
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.17	GCRMN-Caribbean Guidelines for Coral Reef Biophysical Monitoring	4,8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.18	Factsheet - Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region	4,8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.19	Global Coral Reef Partnership of UNEP and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans Factsheets	4,8
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
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Subprogrammes	4,8
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	4,8
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
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)	4-9
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.	4-8
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	4-8

**Reference Documents**

CLME+ SAP v1.3 2016	CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Information Booklet (v1.3), 2016	4,8
MTS 2018-2021	UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021	4-9
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	4
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	4,5,8
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	4
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	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/INF.5	Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review	7
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.13	Nassau Grouper, <i>Epinephelus striatus</i> (Bloch 1792) Biological Report	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.6	IUCN Caribbean Red List of Threatened Species – A Proposal	6
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	4, 8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6	Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2015-2016 Biennium	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.5	A Proposal for Bird Species to be Added to Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol ( <i>English only</i> )	6
UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.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	4-8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32 INF.9 Rev.3	Template FOR National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols	4,8
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/4	Draft Grid for the Objective Evaluation of Proposals for Inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List	5
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/4	Structure and Scope of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPAW Protocol	1-3



UNEP(OCA)/CAR IG.11/7	Proposed Legal Framework for the Administrative Technical and Financial Operations of RACs and RANs	4
UNEP, 2010	Rules of Procedure for the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	2.1
UNEP, 2008	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region. United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme, Kingston, Jamaica. 2008. (English and Spanish)	5-7
UNEP, 1991	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Annexes to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region	5-7
UNEP, 1990	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Caribbean Region	5-7
UNEP, 2012	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities	5-7



**ANNEX III – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING**



## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

**Having convened** the 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;

### The Meeting,

#### RECOMMENDATION I

**Having reviewed** the “Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2015-2016 (including status of STAC6 Recommendations and COP8 Decisions)” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3) and commending the work undertaken by the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC;

**Taking note and welcoming** the “Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities (*including the supplement on the Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project*)(UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5), and the "Evaluation of CaMPAM Activities and Recommendations for Improvement - An analysis of the last 15 years (UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.38/INF.6);

**Recognizing** the work and accomplishment of the CaMPAM network for the last 19 years;

**Gratefully acknowledging** the generous support of the Government of Italy towards ecosystem based and holistic MPA management;

**Having reviewed** the “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); and **gratefully acknowledging** the generous contribution of the Government of France as host of the SPAW RAC;

**Having reviewed** "The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Subprogrammes (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7) and **welcoming** the enhanced integration of workplans between the LBS and SPAW Protocols;

**Gratefully acknowledging** the support received through the CLME+ Project and the US Government for the joint LBS and SPAW STACs Meetings convened in Miami, 31 October-4 November 2016;

**Having reviewed** the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Subprogramme for the 2017-2018 Biennium” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/6) and noting its linkages and contribution to the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway and Aichi Targets;

**Acknowledging** the ambitious Workplan of the Secretariat and the limited budget available; **and**

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

### Recommends that:

1. Governments of the region join the SPAW Protocol as Contracting Parties and **further recommends** that the Secretariat continue efforts to secure ratification with Governments which have initiated actions to join or are in the process of joining the Protocol;
2. The COP9 provides further guidance to the Secretariat regarding the priority actions for the SPAW work programme, as well as assistance for accessing increased resources for both activities and the Secretariat;

3. The Secretariat amend the proposed Workplan in accordance with the comments provided by the Meeting and **further recommends** that the Workplan and Budget be presented to COP9 for approval.
4. The Secretariat and Parties emphasize within the proposed Workplan:
  - (i) the integrated activities of CaMPAM within EBM, CLME+ and the SPAW listed protected areas cooperation programme, as proposed in the draft Workplan, including the inputs and recommendations provided to improve CaMPAM's delivery following the evaluation of its last 15 years;
  - (ii) the enhancement of the GCRMN-Caribbean network to support implementation of the biophysical monitoring guidelines and greater engagement from countries of the region;
  - (iii) the continued collaboration with the AMEP and SPAW workplans to enhance integration of activities and synergies to respond more holistically to the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources of Parties;
  - (iv) the activities on marine mammals conservation be supported as outlined in synergy with relevant partners, including the IWC;
  - (v) the need to develop an integrated road map for implementation of the CLME+ activities under the CEP;
  - (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; and
  - (vii) the need to develop guidelines for evaluation of the impacts of activities due to offshore oil exploration, including seismic surveys, exploration wells, and production on marine mammals, sea turtles and other relevant species, and implementation of relevant mitigation measures.

## **RECOMMENDATION II**

**Having reviewed** the "Proposals for Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5);

**Taking note of** the preliminary activities of the cooperation programme for the protected areas listed as per Article 7 of the Protocol developed in 2013 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.9); **and**

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

### **Recommends that:**

1. The SPAW-RAC continue to maintain and improve the dedicated database to house the national reports on the protected areas to be listed, as well as the web-based tool for Parties to prepare and submit the protected areas reports on-line;
2. The COP9 confirm the Protected Area *National Park Cayos de San Felipe* proposed by the Government of Cuba during the nomination consultative process, on the basis of the review provided by the SPAW-RAC and the Working Group experts;
3. Parties which have not done so consider submitting protected areas to be listed under the Protocol in the upcoming biennium for future listing;
4. The Secretariat continue to work with Parties and managers of the listed sites to further develop the co-operation programme in support of the protected areas listed and in keeping with the comments provided by the Meeting, with particular attention to the review of gaps and needs, in order to analyse ecological connectivity among sites, and strengthen networking and capacities;

5. The Ad hoc group established at the first meeting of the listed sites of the SPAW Protocol in 2013, be reactivated under the leadership of the US Government, to support the further development of the cooperation programme as noted above;
6. The Secretariat continue to reflect the list of Protected Areas in a map, so as to assist with its visual connectivity within the region and seek to have the map linked to Google Earth;
7. Parties seek to facilitate more effective engagement of local fisheries in the establishment and management of MPAs; and
8. In keeping with Article 19 and the para. 25 of the approved Guidelines and Criteria for listing protected areas, the Secretariat prepare a reporting format on the status of the listed sites. In this regard, Parties may learn from the experience in the Mediterranean Barcelona Convention and other relevant treaties, such as the World Heritage Sites Convention of UNESCO.

### RECOMMENDATION III

**Having reviewed** the “Report of the Working Group on the Listing of Species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol”, (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/4);the proposals for listing and supporting documents on status of species of sharks, rays and the Nassau grouper (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.7inclusive of Addendums 1 and 2; and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.12); **and**

**Further recognizing** the alarming population trends or threatened status of the species of sharks and rays and the Nassau grouper proposed for listing and thus the urgent need to raise awareness and promote their protection;

**Recommends that:**

1. The following proposed species be added to the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol:

**Annex II**

*Passerin aciris*, Painted bunting

*Pristis pectinata*, Smalltooth sawfish

**Annex III**

*Liguus fasciatus*, Florida tree snail

*Manta birostris*

*Manta alfredi*

*Manta sp. cf. birostris*

*Sphyrnalewini*,

*Sphyrnamokarran*

*Sphyrnazygaena*

*Carcharhinus longimanus*, Oceanic whitetip shark

*Rhincodon typus*, Whale shark

*Epinephelus striatus*, Nassau grouper

2. The SPAW RAC identifies all species listed as entire groups under the Protocol and includes the species individually in the list, such as the species included under the group of corals and marine mammals;

3. The Ad hoc Working Group for the listing of species be extended during the upcoming biennium under the leadership of the SPAW RAC to further assess new species proposals to be presented by Parties in preparation for the STAC meetings.
4. Parties are invited to identify and propose new species to list for adoption, to be assessed by the next STAC; and
5. The species submitted by the Government of Cuba for STAC7, which require additional information, be taken into account in the future by the Working Group once the additional information has been provided.

#### **RECOMMENDATION IV**

**Having reviewed** the “Draft Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas And Wildlife Protocol (SPAW)”(UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3); **and**

**Recalling** the approved Guidance document contained in Annex III of the "Report of the Working Group to Develop the Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/5); and the draft guidance document contained in the Report of the Working Group, as well as the “Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/INF.5);

**Recommends that:**

1. The COP9 consider approval of the format for reporting exemptions with the inputs provided by the STAC7, following an intersessional review by the extended Ad hoc Working Group on Exemptions with the additional members who joined during the STAC7 including the review of the concepts of possible impacts and mitigation and/or corrective measures, among others;
2. The interested members of the Ad hoc Working Group on exemptions, also considers the Curacao’s exemption case and provide its findings prior to the end of the year;
3. Parties initiate the process to report their exemptions utilizing the format once approved, following the COP9;
4. The Working Group assist with preliminary analysis of exemptions which according to the Protocol, should be reported to the STAC, and its term be extended to assist the Secretariat with the collection and review of exemptions reports from Parties; and
5. The Working Group also initiates discussion on the reporting and process to follow up on the implementation of exemptions as per the Guidance document

#### **RECOMMENDATION V**

**Taking note of** the "GEF UNDP Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Subprogrammes" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7) and the "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 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.10);



Welcoming the presentation by the CLME+ Project Coordinator at the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Land-Based Sources and Activities of Marine Pollution (Miami, 31 October-2 November 2016) which preceded this SPAW STAC7 Meeting;

**Recommends that:**

1. Additional joint LBS-SPAW STACs be convened in the future to continue to enhance integration between the respective subprogrammes activities both at the Secretariat and Contracting Parties level;
2. The progressive integration of efforts and activities under AMEP and SPAW subprogramme continues, in particular with the development of the Ecosystem Based Management projects in both the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf, as well as other relevant pilot activities; and
3. An integrated approach be developed for the reporting mechanism on the *State of the Marine Environment of the Convention Area* under the Cartagena Convention in which the habitats, protected areas and species reporting under SPAW Article 19 will be incorporated, and consider using the CLME+ SOME outline as the basis.

**ANNEX IV - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

## List of Participants

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