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

Cayenne, French Guiana, 13 March 2017

PROPOSAL FOR PROTECTED AREA TO BE LISTED UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL

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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I. Background

1. The listing of Protected Areas under the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol, as per Article 7, has been made a priority since 2004 by successive Conferences of Parties. This directive also includes the development of a cooperation programme for the protected areas listed and will contribute to the building of ecological networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
2. The Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol were developed by a dedicated working group of experts nominated by the SPAW Contracting Parties, as well as the reporting format that aims to assist Parties to prepare their presentation reports on the Protected Areas they wish to propose for listing. The Guidelines were adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP5) to the SPAW Protocol (St. John's, Antigua, 8 September 2008), and the reporting format was adopted at the Sixth COP in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5 October 2010.
3. A specific web-based tool that follows the reporting format was developed by the SPAW RAC in order to offer the possibility to Parties of preparing and submitting reports on-line, if they wish to do so as the use of the web-based tool was made optional. The tool is available at: <http://www.spaw-palisting.org/>.
4. A dedicated database was also developed in the same timeframe in order to house the data provided in the reports, as well as to facilitate compilation and analyses of the characteristics of the Protected Areas listed under the SPAW Protocol.
5. To date, 31 Protected Areas have been presented and listed (see map attached in Annex III), namely and chronologically :
 - At COP 7 in 2012:
 - **Belize:** Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Glover's Reef Marine Reserve;
 - **Bonaire (Netherlands):** Bonaire National Marine Park;
 - **Colombia:** Sanctuary Cienaga Grande de Santa Marta and Regional Seaflower Marine Protected Area in San Andrés and Providencia Archipelago, Regional National Park of Wetlands between the rivers León and Suriquí ;
 - **Cuba:** Guanahacabibes National Park in Pinar del Río;
 - **French Guiana (France):** Grand Connétable Island Natural Reserve;
 - **French West Indies (France):** Agoa Sanctuary;
 - **Guadeloupe (France):** National Park of Guadeloupe;
 - **Guadeloupe (France):** Petite-Terre National Reserve;
 - **Saba (Netherlands):** Saba Bank National Park;
 - **St Eustatius (Netherlands):** National Park the Quill and Boven;
 - **St Martin (France):** St Martin National Reserve; and St Martin Lagoon Ponds;
 - **United States of America:** Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; Dry Tortugas National Park in Florida; Everglades National Park in Florida; and Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in Texas (Gulf of Mexico).
 - At COP8 in 2014:
 - **Belize:** Port Honduras Marine Reserve;
 - **Colombia:** Regional National Park of Wetlands between the rivers León and Suriquí ;
 - **Dominican Republic:** La Caleta Submarine Park, the National Park Jaragua, the National Park Haitises and the National Park Sierra de Bahoruco;
 - **France:** the Reserve "Etang des Salines" and the Reserve "Versants Nord de la Montagne Pelée" in Martinique;
 - **Grenada:** the Molinière-Beauséjour Reserve.
 - **The Kingdom of the Netherlands:** the Saba National Marine Park, the St Eustatius National Marine Park and the Man O War Shoal Marine Park (Sint Maarten);
 - **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:** the Tobago Cay Marine Park.

Full reports are available at <http://www.spaw-palisting.org/>

II Summary of the Activities for the period 2015-2016

The Cooperation Programme for Protected Areas listed

6. Limited availability of resources during the past two years resulted in postponement of several activities within the dedicated cooperation programme for PAs listed under the Protocol. The SPAW Secretariat together with its SPAW RAC and CaMPAM network are currently actively seeking for collaboration and fundraising for the 2017-2018 biennium to reactivate the cooperation programme. In this context, 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).
7. SPAW RAC proposed strategic support to enhance the participation of selected SPAW sites interested in attending the CaMPAM MPA Session at the upcoming GCFI Symposium (Grand Cayman, 7-11 November 2016) [http://www.gcfi.org/Conferences/69th/69th First announcement En.pdf](http://www.gcfi.org/Conferences/69th/69th%20First%20announcement%20En.pdf). Any remaining funds will be postponed for 2017 to support the Cooperation Programme.
8. The Secretariat updated several useful documents for SPAW PA managers such as the contact list of SPAW-listed sites managers, map of PA listed, factsheets for each SPAW PA using the data provided by the Parties for the protected areas listed and reviewed by the managers, available at <http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Protected-Areas-listed-under-the.687>

Relevant documents still available include:

- List of benefits on "value added" for sites listed at <http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Procedure-for-listing-Protected.688>,
 - Strengths and weaknesses of existing SPAW listed sites (to be updated in 2017) at <http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Cooperation-program-dedicated-to.689>
9. The cooperation programme for Parties is also integrated into CaMPAM activities and resources (i.e. Training of Trainers, Small Grants, Regional MPA database; networking and communication, mentorship programme) in order to maximize benefits and resources to Parties (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5).
 10. The statistics webtool developed by SPAW RAC using the data contained in the reports of the SPAW-listed protected areas made it possible to generate a report on the main characteristics of the 31 Protected Areas already listed. This report will be finalized in the next weeks and shared with all SPAW Parties. Part of this report will be presented at STAC7.

Launch of new listing process of PAs for presentation at SPAW STAC7 and COP9

11. The SPAW RAC on behalf of the Secretariat invited SPAW Contracting Parties on 31 March 2016 (attached as Annex I to this report) to consider presenting additional Protected Areas for listing under SPAW at the Ninth Conference of the Parties and to initiate the elaboration of the presentation reports.
12. One nomination proposal was accepted for review up to 30 September 2016. An unofficial proposal from Colombia was received by the Secretariat which was not accepted:

Protected Areas proposed to SPAW STAC7 and COP9 for listing under the SPAW Protocol

- **Cuba:** National Park Cayos de San Felipe.

13. To access PA report presented in 2016 visit:
 - [http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/informe final - parque nacional cayos de san felipe.pdf](http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/informe_final_-_parque_nacional_cayos_de_san_felipe.pdf) for the National Park Cayos de San Felipe.
14. The report presenting the protected area proposed for listing under SPAW was first reviewed by the SPAW RAC as a part of the SPAW Secretariat and coordinator of the Working Group on the Evaluation of Protected Areas proposed for listing under the SPAW Protocol (attached in Annex II list of members of the Working Group). The Working Group was then asked to review the presentation reports (external review) with a view to facilitate the assessment of the presentation reports to be made by SPAW STAC7.
15. **Summary of main comments by the experts of the Working Group:**
 - For the National Park Cayos de San Felipe in Cuba:
 - The report was completed satisfactorily and there are no mandatory documents missing.
 - The report was comprehensive and provides information on all the aspects considered as important for PA listing.
 - The protected area presented addressed the criteria required for listing under SPAW.
 - There were no negative assessments or major objections to the listing received from any member of the Working Group when consulted on the submissions.

ANNEX I

LETTER FROM THE SPAW SECRETARIAT TO THE FOCAL POINTS OF SPAW CONTRACTING PARTIES TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE PROCESS OF LISTING CARIBBEAN PROTECTED AREAS UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL IS LAUNCHED FOR THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AND INVITING THEM TO CONSIDER PRESENTING THEIR PROTECTED AREAS FOR LISTING UNDER SPAW

31 March 2016

Dear Focal Points of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region,

The United Nations Environment Programme's-Caribbean Environment Programme, the SPAW Secretariat and its Regional Activity Centre for the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention are pleased to announce that the process of listing Caribbean Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol is launched for the Contracting Parties.

The listing of Protected Areas under the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol, as identified under Article 7 of the Protocol, has been made a priority since 2004 by successive Conferences of Parties. The purpose of this list is to identify those areas that are of particular importance to the Wider Caribbean region, that are to be accorded priority for scientific and technical research and mutual assistance, as well as to protect the listed areas from activities that would undermine the purposes for which they were listed.

This message is to encourage you as Parties to work with your respective managers on the nomination of new Protected Areas that can enrich the List and benefit from its capacity building program.

The listing process is easy : the manager of the protected area creates a presentation report using the reporting format or the dedicated web-based tool (<http://www.spaw-palisting.org>) that follows exactly the reporting format and offer the possibility to prepare and submit on-line reports for the Parties that wish to do so. The use of the web-based tool is only optional.

The presentation report then is submitted to its national SPAW Focal Point for approval. Once validated, the report is sent to the SPAW Secretariat for an overall assessment of its completion. The SPAW Secretariat with the support of the SPAW RAC then conducts a standard evaluation process which includes external review, in order to determine whether the submitted protected area is consistent with the guidelines and common criteria adopted by the SPAW Parties. The results of this review will be presented to the next SPAW Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee scheduled at the end of 2016 for discussion and decision, and a consolidated tentative list of Protected Areas will be established for presentation at the next SPAW COP.

The benefits of inscribing PAs under SPAW are multiple, namely:

- Increased recognition and awareness as a place of importance locally, regionally and globally,
- Local and national pride resulting in national responsibility to support management,
- Higher visibility resulting in possible increases in employment opportunities and income (e.g.tourism, “marketing” the area),
- More likely to benefit from SPAW grants and other types of assistance* (sites become priorities for SPAW Secretariat),
- Opportunities for enhancing capacity, management, protection and sustainability,
- Opportunities for support under other areas of SPAW and CEP (species conservation, pollution control, EBM).

To date, 31 Caribbean Protected Areas have been listed under the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention within the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). All Protected

Areas already listed significantly contribute to the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Caribbean, while targeting various and complimentary features, habitats and species.

The SPAW Protocol also lists protected areas with a view to develop a regional network and cooperation programme in order to support the PAs listed and to promote the listing of additional protected areas under SPAW which would benefit from such a cooperation programme. Managers of those 31 protected areas are also part of CaMPAM, the Caribbean MPA Management Network and Forum of SPAW and UNEP-CEP, which aims to build capacity for managers and staff of MPAs in the region through peer-to-peer exchanges, small grants programme and training.

The necessary elements to prepare the presentation reports (format, access code for the web-based tool) as well as additional practical guidance will be provided to you by the SPAW-RAC as soon as we hear about your interest in entering the process. Please note that the presentation reports should be prepared to be received by the Secretariat no later than July, 31st, 2016 (the evaluation process is long).

We look forward to hearing from you if your country plans to submit any of its protected areas for listing under SPAW.

Sincerely,

For the SPAW Secretariat,

-

Franck GOURDIN
Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPAW/RAC – UNEP
<http://www.car-spaw-rac.org>

ANNEX II

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE "PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP"

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ANNEX III

**MAP OF SPAW PROTECTED AREAS ALREADY LISTED IN 2012 AND 2014, AND PROTECTED
AREAS TO BE LISTED**

The map is available at: <http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Protected-Areas-listed-under-the.687>

See also UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5 Rev.1 – Addendum 1