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W) in the Wider Caribbean Region

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**Draft**

**Relationship between the SPAW Protocol, the STAC  
and the Work Undertaken by the**

**Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)**

**to the**

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**





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**Relationship Between the SPAW Protocol, the STAC and the Work Undertaken by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

This report represents a summary of the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The report provides an overview of the accomplishments of the SBSTTA since its first meeting in 1995, focusing on the outputs from the SBSTTA that are potentially useful to the Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW).

The report is prepared for presentation to the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the First Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW). Identification of the outputs from the SBSTTA process that are relevant to SPAW is intended to inform the discussions concerning the future work of the STAC. This is necessary in order to avoid duplication while simultaneously producing a synergy that is beneficial to the implementation of both conventions.

The review was conducted by a Consultant, and was guided by the Terms of Reference (Appendix 1) developed by the Regional Coordinating Unit of the UNEP-Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CAR/RCU). The approach taken in conducting the review consisted of the following:

- a. Review of the reports of the meetings of the SBSTTA; and
- b. Review of reports forming working and information documents for the meetings of the SBSTTA;

It should be made clear at this juncture that the recommendations of the SBSTTA to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are at different stages of adoption. While several have been endorsed by the Conference of the Parties, most have been endorsed only in part, and yet others are still being refined by the SBSTTA. As such, products from the SBSTTA process that may be useful to SPAW implementation and the work of the STAC are not only those that have been approved, but also some of the background information relevant to each output.

Implicit in the recommendations contained in this report is the assumption that many of the outputs from the SBSTTA process may have to be modified by the STAC to be useful for SPAW implementation.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE SBSTTA

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) is established by Article 25 of the CBD as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties. The SBSTTA is an “open-ended intergovernmental” body that provides advice relating to the implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties (COP).

Specifically, the tasks of the SBSTTA are to:

- a. Provide scientific and technical assessments of the status of biological diversity;
- b. Prepare scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of this Convention;
- c. Identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and advise on the ways and means of promoting development and/or transferring such technologies;
- d. Provide advice on scientific programmes and international cooperation in research and development related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; and
- e. Respond to scientific, technical, technological and methodological questions that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies may put to the body.

Information contained in the website<sup>1</sup> of the CBD Secretariat states that the six meetings of the SBSTTA have produced a total of fifty eight (58) recommendations to the COP. Of these, ten have been endorsed in full and adopted in decisions of the COP.

The outputs of the SBSTTA can be grouped as follows:

- a. Guidelines for assessments, reporting, and technology use and access;
- b. Criteria for measuring programme effectiveness;
- c. Indicators of biodiversity;
- d. Technical review/advice on a range of subjects, conceptual and technical; and
- e. Structural mechanisms for information exchange and use of expertise.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.biodiv.org/convention/sbstta.asp>

### **3. POTENTIAL AREAS OF COLLABORATION**

The existing Memorandum of Co-operation (MOC) between the Secretariats to the Cartagena Convention (1983) and the CBD (1992) lists the following objectives for collaboration (Appendix 2):

- a. Facilitating exchange of information and experience;
- b. Exploring the possibility of recommending procedures for harmonizing, to the extent desirable and practicable, the reporting requirements of Parties under those instruments and conventions;
- c. Exploring the possibility of coordinating their respective programmes of work; and
- d. Consulting on how such conventions and other international legal instruments can contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Based on the work of the SBSTTA and the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to date, the following areas have been identified as being **feasible for collaboration in the immediate future**<sup>2</sup>:

- a. Participation of STAC in the SBSTTA process;
- b. Information exchange;
- c. Harmonization of national agendas and/or reporting; and
- d. Research and training.

#### **3.1 Participation of STAC in SBSTTA**

In addition to the participation of representatives of UNEP-CAR/RCU in meetings of SBSTTA, there are two ways for the STAC to participate more directly in the work of the SBSTTA.

The first is for the STAC to be invited to participate as a permanent observer to the SBSTTA. This would be similar to the courtesy currently extended to the SBSTTA by the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention for the Chair of the SBSTTA to become a permanent observer to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention (UNEP 1999a). This would facilitate a more structured approach to the integration of the work of the

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<sup>2</sup> The UNEP-CAR/RCU prepared a report to the CBD that sets out in some detail the possible linkages between the work plans of CEP and CBD for the 2002-2003 biennium.

two technical advisory bodies. However, since inter-sessional work on the SPAW Programme does not include the STAC, the STAC currently has no Chair outside of the meeting. It has been proposed, both as part of the recommendations resulting from the evaluation of the work of the ISTAC (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 20/3) and in the proposed scope of work for the STAC (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 20/4), that the STAC should function as a standing, open-ended body to be active during the inter-sessional periods. If this recommendation is implemented, the chair of the STAC could also serve during the inter-sessional period, and attend the SBSTTA meetings as appropriate. The alternative is to designate the SPAW Programme Officer as the person representing the STAC at meetings of the SBSTTA. Whichever scenario is adopted, this increased participation in the work of the SBSTTA will require more resources.

The second way for the STAC to participate in the work of the SBSTTA is to participate in Ad hoc and/or expert groups dealing with specific themes or required outputs. The SBSTTA working group on coastal and marine protected areas is one example wherein a significant degree of synergy could have been achieved if the STAC had a closer working relationship with the SBSTTA.

Additionally, to achieve effective mutual participation and coordination between the SBSTTA and the STAC, governments should make every effort to designate the expert to the SBSTTA to be the expert to the STAC as well. At the very least, if these two designations are not given to the same person, there should be close coordination between both experts at the national level.

### **3.2 Information Exchange**

The area of information exchange presents probably the area of greatest potential benefits for the STAC. Products of the SBSTTA to date that are of relevance to the STAC and SPAW (Appendix 3) include:

- a. Technical guidelines
  - Scientific and technical information, and format, for national reports on implementation of the biodiversity convention;
  - Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity;
  - Methodology for assessment of biodiversity (in forests, agriculture, and freshwater systems);
  - Approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources, including tourism;
  - Prevention, introduction, and mitigation of impacts from invasive/alien species;
  - Methodologies for scientific assessments and identification of pilot studies; and
  - Uniform methodology for use of rosters of experts.
- b. Criteria for measuring (CBD) programme effectiveness



- c. Development of indicators of biodiversity
- d. Reports of technical reviews
  - Sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity;
  - Elaboration of the ecosystem approach;
  - Economic valuation of biodiversity;
  - Incorporation of biodiversity considerations into environmental impact assessment; and
  - Implementation tools and analysis of coral bleaching and coral reef degradation.
- e. Synthesis of reports and case studies related to biodiversity assessment in environmental impact assessments (EIAs).

Of the above, the most useful products for SPAW Programme priorities, based on the 2002-2003 Workplan, are likely to be the following<sup>3</sup>:

- Format for national reports on implementation of the convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/1/6);
- Indicators of biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/9);
- Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/1/8);
- Approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources, including tourism (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/11);
- Methodologies for scientific assessments and identification of pilot studies (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/1/4), (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/10);
- Uniform methodology for use of rosters of experts (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/5);
- Criteria for measuring programme effectiveness (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/4);
- Elaboration of the ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/11);
- Economic valuation of biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/13); and
- Implementation tools and analysis of coral bleaching and coral reef degradation (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/7), (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/Inf.11).

Additionally, CBD Parties have decided to establish an Ad hoc technical expert group on marine and coastal protected areas to assist SBSTTA in its work on this topic. Terms of Reference for this expert group have been developed, which includes the identification and review of relevant information and projects on this area with a view to develop appropriate linkages and collaboration in the near future.

Many of the products may have to be adopted to suit the particular circumstances of the Caribbean. However, the background reports and assessments should provide a body of information that can be used to inform the work of the STAC. One area in which such guidelines and methodologies will be extremely useful is in the assessment of biodiversity in

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<sup>3</sup> See Appendix 3 for more complete list of relevant SBSTTA reports.

establishment of marine protected areas. One of the basic approaches to monitoring in the marine environment is the establishment of indicator species. Improvement in the assessment techniques should improve the establishment of baseline conditions, and hence the scientific rigor of evaluation of management effectiveness of MPAs.

In addition to the direct exchange of information of relevance, the STAC (possibly through the Secretariat) could participate in the Clearing-house Mechanism of the CBD. This would facilitate access to information generated not only by the SBSTTA and the CBD Secretariat, but also by the Contracting Parties to the CBD and the international institutions that participate in the SBSTTA process. Participation by SPAW could take the following forms:

- Establishment of the SPAW Secretariat as the Caribbean Regional Focal Point for the Clearing-house Mechanism;
- Development of a number of the species recovery/management plans and marine protected area (MPA) evaluations as case studies;
- Development of a number of the Caribbean MPAs that are “Centers of Excellence” or “Demonstration Sites” under the SPAW Programme as training sites; and
- Conducting joint research in a number of the thematic areas, primarily training and capacity building, research in coral reefs, and effectiveness of MPAs in species recovery<sup>4</sup>.

### **3.3 Harmonization of National Agendas**

With the entry into force of the SPAW Protocol, national reports will be required of Contracting Parties. National reports on the implementation of the SPAW Protocol are required under Article 19, while Article 22 (2) (d) provides for the preparation of common formats for national reporting to the Secretariat. Considering how dated the current information on the status of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region is, national reporting is likely to be high on the agenda of the STAC.

The SBSTTA has prepared guidelines on “scientific and technical information, and format, for national reports on implementation of the biodiversity convention”. At the very least, the guidelines prepared by the SBSTTA could be modified for reporting under the SPAW Protocol. However, one of the constant complaints by Parties to multilateral environmental agreements is that the reporting requirements of the many conventions are onerous. As such, harmonization of the reporting requirements and/or formats for the CBD and SPAW would ease the burden on Parties, and probably encourage consistent reporting. Already, fifty percent (50%) of the areas of focus (flora and fauna) are covered by reporting to the CBD. Collaboration in this area should therefore take the following forms:

- Development of harmonized reporting formats; and
- Development of easily accessible/used formats for databases.

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<sup>4</sup> A related area of research is management effectiveness in MPAs.

Harmonization of the national implementation agendas will be more difficult. However, implementation activities that lend themselves to regional coordination, such as training and research, should be explored early on.

### **3.4 Research and Training**

The area of research is an obvious and easy area in which to collaborate, and some of the themes/subject matters dealt with by the SBSTTA are of importance to the STAC. Collaborative action in the following areas would be very beneficial to both conventions:

- a. The development of indicators for, and assessment of, biodiversity. This is an important element in the establishment and management of protected areas, especially as it relates to forest biodiversity. However, given the focus of CEP, it is assumed that collaboration would focus on coastal and marine biodiversity, and would involve both development of indicators and projects for undertaking field assessments.
- b. Development of a programme of work for monitoring and analysis of coral bleaching and coral reef degradation. SPAW presently supports the work of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and the Caribbean Coastal Monitoring Productivity Programme (CARICOMP) in this area. Additionally, a significant amount of work on this subject has been done in the Caribbean, and collaboration on project activities should be beneficial to both conventions.
- c. Sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity. SPAW has undertaken work in sustainable tourism, marine protected areas (MPAs), and integrated coastal area management. Further work in those areas would no doubt benefit from experiences and research taking place elsewhere in the world, especially in the “newer” field of carrying capacity determination for MPAs and tourist resorts.
- d. The design of pilot studies in the many areas of relevance to both SPAW and the CBD. Areas for attention should include:
  - Biodiversity impacts of establishment and management of MPAs, especially in relation to fisheries;
  - Management of invasive/nuisance species in protected areas;
  - Effectiveness of species recovery plans;
  - Mapping of critical marine habitats;
  - Training effectiveness; and
  - Economic valuation of natural resources, especially in relation to MPAs.

The primary need for training identified by the SBSTTA is the training in taxonomy. This is an area in which the Caribbean could participate immediately, and which would be quite beneficial. The Global Taxonomy Initiative (of the CBD) emphasizes the importance of linking training to employment opportunities for the trainees, and consequently to capacity

development on a national or regional basis. It is likely that potential trainees in the Caribbean are already employed in government or research institutions. However, SPAW involvement offers a particular benefit if such training could be offered to Scientific Officers in MPAs. In turn, MPAs provide potential support systems for field training within the initiative.

The SBSTTA has also established a roster of experts. UNEP-CAR/RCU shared its database of experts with the CBD when the roster was being prepared, in particular information on experts in marine biodiversity and marine protected area (MPA) issues. This activity can be beneficial to the Caribbean in three ways:

- First, the guidelines for establishment and use of the roster of experts would be useful for setting guidelines within the SPAW STAC process;
- Secondly, collaboration on listing of experts should provide access (and enhancement of skills) to Caribbean experts, who may not participate in the SBSTTA process, and may not otherwise be known outside the Caribbean; and
- Thirdly, the availability of this larger group of experts under the SBSTTA process makes it possible to develop a process of peer review for scientific and technical research design and/or reports. Not only is this of potential direct benefit to the STAC, but Caribbean professionals would undoubtedly benefit by participating in an institutional space that requires them to maintain scientific rigor in their work, and it may even improve their skills.

In much the same that SBSTTA products and processes are of use to SPAW, the SPAW Regional Programme has produced a significant number of products<sup>5</sup>, and made considerable progress in a number of approaches, that should be valuable for CBD implementation. These include activities such as the Training of Trainers programme for MPA managers; the products and approaches in sustainable tourism; and the work with MPAs, such as the network of Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers (CaMPAM), the CaMPAM database and the Small Grants Fund for MPAs. The UNEP-CAR/RCU has already shared most of the above-mentioned products with the CBD, though it is not known to what extent such products have been used. This underscores the need to develop the appropriate linkages between the two technical bodies and programmes.

### **3.5 Other Lessons From the SBSTTA**

In addition to the products from the SBSTTA process, there are a number of operational mechanisms that were used by the SBSTTA that are worthy of examination by the STAC. These include:

- a. The use of sessional and inter-sessional working groups.

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<sup>5</sup> See Appendix 3 of document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/3 "Evaluation of the work of the ISTAC" for a more comprehensive list of the SPAW-ISTAC products.

Due to the long agenda proposed for each SBSTTA meeting, participants at the meetings are normally divided into two groups, each charged with dealing with a set of assigned agenda items. While the agenda of the STAC meetings may not merit that level of division of labor, the use of sessional working groups may be necessary in the future to address specific technical matters. Certainly the use of working groups between meetings (inter-sessional) has proven to be quite useful in the case of the SBSTTA. Since the ISTAC had a measure of success with such groups in the past, the STAC may well consider more consistent use of such inter-sessional working groups in order to provide more opportunities for more serious discussion of scientific and technical matters.

b. Cooperation with Secretariats and technical advisory bodies of other conventions.

The SBSTTA works with the Secretariats and technical advisory bodies of other conventions in two main ways, in addition to participation in the SBSTTA meeting. First, it allows observers from international organisations to present to the SBSTTA meeting statements/reports of how the programmes of those organisations related to the implementation of the programme of the CBD. Secondly, Secretariat of the CBD has entered into a number of cooperative arrangements with the Secretariats of other conventions and international agencies in order to facilitate better working relationships between the technical advisory bodies (UNEP 1999b). Notable among these are the Ramsar Secretariat, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the CITES Secretariat, UNESCO, and the Global Environmental Facility.

c. Level of involvement of Members

It appears that Parties to the CBD, and associated Members of the SBSTTA, dedicate a substantial amount of effort in making the process work. Similarly, for the STAC process to be more effective, and for the SPAW-CBD linkages to be more useful, it is necessary for governments to systematically and consistently work to ensure that appropriate coordination mechanisms are developed and used. It is also necessary for governments to become more active in the SPAW-STAC process.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The existing Memorandum of Co-operation between SPAW and CBD provides for a range of collaborative activities between the two Secretariats. This review finds that the achievements of the SBSTTA to date can contribute in a significant way to the future work of the STAC. Likewise SBSTTA and the work of the CBD can benefit from the years of expertise and achievements in the area of coastal and marine resources management and conservation of the Caribbean Environment Programme. The review finds that collaboration between the two Secretariats can take the following forms:

- a. Participation of STAC in the SBSTTA process;
  - Designation of SPAW-STAC as a permanent observer to the SBSTTA,
  - Participation in expert groups dealing with issues/themes relevant to SPAW.
- b. Information exchange;
  - Sharing of technical and scientific information, reports, and assessments,
  - Development of relevant criteria, such as biodiversity indicators,
  - Development of appropriate guidelines and methodologies, such as assessment of marine biodiversity and economic valuation of biodiversity,
  - Development, preparation, and sharing of relevant case studies.
- c. Harmonization of national agendas and/or reporting; and
  - National reporting formats,
  - Database formats and tools.
- d. Research and training
  - Indicators of biodiversity in marine ecosystems/protected areas,
  - Assessment and monitoring of coral reefs,
  - Sustainable use of coastal and marine systems and resources,
  - Design and implementation of pilot studies and case studies in marine ecosystem mapping, training effectiveness, species recovery plans, economic valuation of biodiversity, and biodiversity impacts of marine protected areas.

A review of the existing cooperative arrangements between SBSTTA and other organizations should be undertaken prior to the determination of the specific nature of the possible collaborative arrangements. Finally, and more importantly, the governments participating in SPAW should actively participate and systematically assist with the development and implementation of the specific collaborative arrangements and initiatives between SPAW and CBD. For example, this will include governments supporting relevant SPAW initiatives at SBSTTA meetings and vice versa, as well as greater coordination at the national level on SPAW and CBD issues. This will ensure that integration of initiatives take place as smoothly as possible, and that the conservation priorities of the Wider Caribbean are served as best as possible by both conventions.

## LITERATURE CITED

UNEP: 1992. Convention on Biological Diversity. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992.

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/14: Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Montreal, Canada, 21-25 June 1999.

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/2: Report on Co-operation with Other Bodies. Fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Montreal, Canada, 21-25 June 1999.

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/INF.6: Cooperative Linkages in Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Convention. Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Special Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. San José, Costa Rica, 9-13 July 2001.

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/9: Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2002-2003. Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Special Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. San José, Costa Rica, 9-13 July 2001.

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/3: Evaluation of the Work of the Interim Scientific and Technical Committee (ISTAC) since its Inception (1992-2000). First Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region. Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CaMPAM	- Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers (Network of)
CARICOMP	- Caribbean Coastal Monitoring Productivity Programme
CBD	- Convention on Biological Diversity
CEP	- Caribbean Environment Programme
COP	- Conference of Parties
EIA	- Environmental Impact Assessment
GCRMN	- Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
ISTAC	- Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
MOC	- Memorandum of Cooperation
MPA	- Marine Protected Area
SBSTTA	- Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SPAW	- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	- Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
UNEP-CAR/RCU	- United Nations Environment Programme, Caribbean Environment Programme, Regional Coordinating Unit



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This consultancy is related to UNEP-CAR/RCU's Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA), established in the project CR/FP/CP/0401-94-15: "Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA)".

Under the guidance of the Coordinator of the Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) for the Caribbean Environment Programme and in close consultation with the Programme Officer for SPA, the Consultant will assist with the preparations of two documents for the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the SPA Protocol (SPA COP1) and First Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPA Protocol, planned from 23-29 September 2001 in Havana, Cuba, specifically:

- Report on the review and analysis of the work of the Interim STAC since its first meeting in 1992 until now to highlight its main progress, achievements and shortcomings, as well as major gaps and follow-up required by the STAC and the Parties to the SPA Protocol. The document will be based on the reports of the four meetings of ISTAC, relevant intergovernmental meetings of CEP, other relevant reports and information provided by the SPA Secretariat, governments and relevant organisations.
  
- Summary report on the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Aspects (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of relevance to the SPA Protocol and to STAC. This will include areas of progress by SBSTTA which could assist the future work of STAC and the implementation of the SPA Protocol in general, and vice versa. Given the wide scope of the CBD, the report will put most emphasis on the Jakarta Mandate of the CBD and will rely mostly on information and publications from the CBD Secretariat, governments and relevant organisations. The main objective of this study will be to avoid any duplication in the future work of STAC and promote collaboration between the SPA and the CBD treaties at the regional level.

## APPENDIX 2

### MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION

between

**The Secretariat  
of the Convention for the Protection and Development  
of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region  
(Cartagena, 1983) and its Protocols, including the Protocol  
Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)**

and

**The Secretariat  
of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Nairobi, 1992)**

*Recalling* that the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), Kingston, 12-14 December 1994, noted that "...the comprehensive SPAW Protocol is a fundamental instrument to assist with the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the region" and requested through Decision No. 1 that the Regional Co-ordinating Unit (RCU) to the Caribbean Environment Programme "prepare a draft SPAW-CBD Co-operation Programme to be considered by the CBD Secretariat".

*Recalling* that the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the SPAW Protocol, Kingston 11-13 October 1995, recommended that "the CBD-SPAW Co-operative Programme should:

- i) take into consideration and be compatible with the discussions and/or decisions of the Second CBD Conference of the Parties (COP2) (Jakarta, 6-17 November 1995) in particular the decisions concerning Agenda Item 8-2 "Co-operation with other Biodiversity-related Conventions";
- ii) be constructed in a flexible manner in order to accommodate collaborating partners, as well as other entities concerned with the conservation of biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean;

- iii) incorporate the philosophy expressed in document UNEP (OCA)/ CAR WG. 19/INF. 16;
- iv) include a collaborative arrangement between the CEP Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat and, among other things, identify the appropriate linkages between the STAC, the SPAW RAC and the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA); and
- v) recognise that collaborative linkages will, inter alia, depend on adequate resources being made available to CEP”.

*Noting* that the Second Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Jakarta, Indonesia, 6-17 November 1995) adopted Decision 11/13 on “Co-operation with other Biodiversity-related Conventions”, under which the Convention’s Executive Secretary is requested “to co-ordinate with the Secretariats of relevant biodiversity-related conventions with a view to:

- a) facilitating exchange of information and experience;
- b) exploring the possibility of recommending procedures for harmonising, to the extent desirable and practicable, the reporting requirements of Parties under those instruments and conventions;
- c) exploring the possibility of coordinating their respective programmes of work; and
- d) consulting on how such conventions and other international legal instruments can contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

*Aware* that the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is prepared to co-operate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to promote co-operation and co-ordination in the Wider Caribbean on biodiversity conservation, together with other relevant convention secretariats;

*Therefore* the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (Regional Co-ordinating Unit of the Caribbean Environment Programme of UNEP), hereinafter referred to as “secretariats” decide as follows:

### **Article 1. Institutional Co-operation**

- a) The secretariats will explore the possibility for the organs of one Convention to participate as observers at meetings of the other.

- b) The secretariats will inform their respective focal points in each Contracting Party of their co-operative activities, and will seek to promote consultation and co-operation between focal points in those Contracting Parties where focal points for the conventions are different.

### **Article 2. Exchange of Information and Experience**

- a) The secretariats will institute procedures for regular exchanges of information in their respective fields of action.
- b) The secretariats will work out modalities for exchanging data on biodiversity contained in their databases and the Clearing-house Mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity and for co-operating in preparing relevant documents under each Convention.

### **Article 3. Co-ordination of Programmes of Work**

- a) The secretariats will explore the possibility to co-ordinate the preparation of their respective work plans.
- b) The secretariats will explore the possibility of harmonising the reporting of Contracting Parties under both Conventions.

### **Article 4. Joint Conservation Action**

- a) The secretariats will contact their Contracting Parties with a view to encouraging integration and consistency between National Strategies, Plans or Programmes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Convention and its SPAW Protocol.
- b) The secretariats will consult their Contracting Parties with the view to encouraging effective conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly for the purposes of promoting the conservation of coastal and marine resources and ecosystems.
- c) The secretariats will co-operate on other issues as agreed from time to time and as appropriate.

**Article 5. Consultation, Reporting and further guidance**

The secretariats will institute measures for consultations on the implementation of this Memorandum of Co-operation and will report accordingly to their respective governing bodies and seek further guidance on new areas of co-operation.

**Article 6. Review and Termination**

This agreement may be reviewed at the request of either party and will be terminated by either party giving a one-year notice.

Done at Montreal, on the 3 day of March, 1997

Nelson Andrade Colmenares  
Acting Deputy Co-ordinator  
Cartagena Convention & its Protocols

Calestous Juma  
Executive Secretary  
Convention on Biological Diversity

## APPENDIX 3

### SBSTTA REPORTS RELEVANT TO SPAW STAC

Topic	Document Description	Reference Number
Biodiversity Indicators	Recommendations for a Core set of Indicators on Biological Diversity	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/9 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/12
Technology Transfer	Ways and Means to Promote and Facilitate Access to, and Transfer and Development of Technologies, Including Biotechnology	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/1/5 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/6
Information Sharing	Scientific and Technical Information to be Contained in National Reports of Parties	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/1/6 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/14
	Role of the Clearing-House Mechanism in Facilitating and Promoting Technical and Scientific Co-Operation in Research and Development	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/9 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/3
Assessment Methods	Assessment of Biological Diversity and Methodologies for Future Assessments	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/2
	Review of Methodologies for Assessment of Biological Diversity	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/8
	Identification, Monitoring and Assessments of Components of Biological Diversity and Processes Which Have Adverse Impacts	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/3
Programme Evaluation	Indicators for Assessing the Effectiveness of Measures Taken under the Convention	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/4
Capacity Building	Practical Approaches for Capacity Building for Taxonomy	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/5 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/6
	Capacity-Building in Biosafety for Developing Countries	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/8
	Knowledge, Innovations and Practices of Indigenous and Local Communities	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/7
Agricultural Biodiversity	Agricultural Biological Diversity	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/10 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/6
Forest Biodiversity	Forests and Biological Diversity	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/11 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/5 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/8

Topic	Document Description	Reference Number
Coastal and Marine Biodiversity	Scientific, Technical and Technological Aspects of the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Biological Diversity	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/1/8
	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/4
	Bioprospecting of Genetic Resources of the Deep Sea-Bed	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/15
	Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity: Implementation Tools for the Programme of Work and Analysis of Coral Bleaching	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/7
Inland Waters	Biological Diversity of Inland Waters	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/2 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/7 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/6
SBSTTA Operation	Overall Assessment of the Operations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/10
	Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Groups	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/5
	Ad Hoc Technical Expert Groups: Terms of Reference, Roster of Experts and Proposal on a Uniform Methodology for Their Use	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/15
EIA	Synthesis of Reports and Case-Studies Relating to Environmental Impact Assessment	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/10
Scientific Assessments	Development of methodologies and identification of pilot studies	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/9
	Economic Valuation of Biological Diversity	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/13
	Progress report on ongoing assessment processes	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/3
Sustainable Use of Biodiversity	Sustainable Use of the Components of Biological Diversity	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/13
	Development of Approaches and Practices for the Sustainable Use of Biological Resources, Including Tourism	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/11
Ecosystem Approach	Ecosystem Approach: Further Conceptual Elaboration	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/11

Topic	Document Description	Reference Number
Invasive Species	Alien Species: Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/5 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/8
	Invasive alien species Comprehensive review on the efficiency and efficacy of existing measures for their prevention, early detection, eradication and control	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/7
	Invasive alien species Options for future work	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/8
Cooperation with Other Bodies	Report on Co-operation with Other Bodies Report by the Executive Secretary	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/2