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**CO-OPERATIVE LINKAGES IN MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY
BETWEEN THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE
CARTAGENA CONVENTION**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (1983 Cartagena Convention). The Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), are the legal framework for the 28 Government, Caribbean Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) for the Wider Caribbean region.
2. The document seeks to be responsive to (1) provisions relating to co-operating in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to the Cartagena Convention each of which calls for co-ordination and co-operation with other relevant Conventions and (2) related decisions made by the governing bodies of both Conventions.
3. It is also responsive to the Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) between the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention and the Secretariat of the CBD signed on 3 March 1997. The present document is an initiative by the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme to assist with the implementation of the MoC.
4. Importantly, the present document is also responsive to the Jakarta Mandate which reinforces and adds specificity to the CBD and Cartagena Convention provisions on co-operation in the subject area of conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. It invited, inter alia, secretariats of regional agreements for the conservation of the marine environment, such as regional seas programmes, to: (1) review their programmes with a view to improving existing measures; (2) develop new actions which promote conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity consistent with recommendations for action by the Second Conference of the Parties; (3) provide information on their actions on a regular basis to the Conference of the Parties, as soon as possible, through the Executive Secretary and (4) these various institutions are invited to cooperate with the Conference of the Parties through the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, Technological Advice (SBSTTA), in the planning and implementation of programmes affecting marine and coastal biological diversity, so as to reduce any unnecessary duplication or gaps in coverage.

II. BACKGROUND AND MANDATE FOR CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE CBD AND THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION

5. Decision II/10, the Jakarta Mandate, invites international and regional bodies, such as the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Cartagena Convention, which address activities

relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, to cooperate with the COP. Decision II/10 further states this is to be accomplished through the Convention on Biological Diversity Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) relative to the planning and implementation of programmes which affect marine and coastal biological diversity. This co-operative effort will have as a goal, inter alia, reduction of any unnecessary duplication or gaps in coverage.

6. The Jakarta Mandate decision was significantly focused and advanced by a recommendation of the Second Meeting of the SBSTTA in November 1996 which urged the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, in implementing the Jakarta Mandate, to:

"...3. Strengthen and develop special partnership arrangements with international organisations and institutions including regional bodies with particular competence in specific areas of marine and coastal biological diversity."

7. The above decision and recommendation are also in line with an earlier decision made by 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, Kingston, 12-14 December 1994.
8. The Governments of the Wider Caribbean, having recognised the need for co-operation in the management of their coastal and marine resources, two decades ago established the Caribbean Environment Programme. The Caribbean Environment Programme is one of the UNEP-sponsored Regional Seas Programmes, and is co-ordinated by a Regional Co-ordinating Unit based in Kingston, Jamaica, which also serves as Secretariat for its legal framework, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and its Protocols on combating oils spills, protected areas and wildlife (SPAW) and land-based sources and activities of marine pollution (LBS).
9. The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Convention, and its three Protocols are both comprehensive in scope and are congruent in most of their provisions. The few elements that are unique to each instrument are nevertheless mutually supporting as they contribute towards achieving the overall common objectives of both treaties. The Cartagena Convention and its Protocols provide in many instances more concrete and specific guidance to implement the strong and broader obligations of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In particular, the detailed obligations contained in the Cartagena Convention Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to (1) manage the components of biodiversity on an ecosystem basis, (2) establish protected areas, (3) establish protection programmes for endangered and

threatened species of wildlife and (4) manage wildlife to try to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered with extinction, serve as concrete guidelines for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the regional level, for each of the four above-mentioned issues.

10. The Caribbean Environment Programme provides a strategically advantageous mechanism, legally and institutionally, to assist with the co-ordination of actions which could significantly enhance the effectiveness of initiatives emanating from the CBD, particularly in the field of marine and coastal biodiversity. An important factor, which is supportive of the co-operative efforts envisaged between the two Convention secretariats in facilitating countries to meet their obligations, is the fact that 27 of the 28 countries participating in the Caribbean Environment Programme, which has as its legal framework the Cartagena Convention, have ratified or acceded to the CBD. The Cartagena Convention and the CBD are mutually supportive and reinforce each other, thus providing a strong foundation of comprehensive biodiversity international law to support the conservation of biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean region.
11. On the basis of all of the above, as noted in paragraph 3, the Memorandum of co-operation between the Secretariats of the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Convention on Biological Diversity was promulgated. The Memorandum includes six main articles as follows: (1) Institutional co-operation; (2) Exchange of information and Experience; (3) Co-ordination of programmes of Work; (4) Joint Conservation Action; (5) Consultation, Reporting and Further guidance and (6) Review and Termination.
12. On 12 June 1997, the Twelfth 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 Cartagena Convention affirmed the Memorandum of co-operation and requested the CEP Secretariat to prepare a draft paper on collaborative arrangements between both Secretariats, consistent with the Memorandum of co-operation. Such document was prepared in 1997 and forwarded to the Third Meeting of SBSTTA in 1997. This document aims to update the information presented in 1997.
13. The objective of the present updated document is three-fold. It aims at (1) providing concrete suggestions on programmatic areas for co-operation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Convention, (2) demonstrating the contributions that the Caribbean Environment Programme can offer at the regional level in support of the CBD workplan activities in the Wider Caribbean region and (3) providing suggestions for possible recommendations by the Sixth Meeting of SBSTTA.

III. PROPOSED AREAS OF COOPÉRATION BETWEEN THE CBD AND THE CARTAGENA CONVENTIONS

14. The Workplan of the Convention on Biological Diversity is relevant to the Wider Caribbean and will be of great value to the Caribbean Environment Programme. On a reciprocal basis, the Workplan for the Caribbean Environment Programme with its four Regional Programmes and projects is in direct support of the Jakarta Mandate and will move substantially towards satisfying the requirements of the Workplan of the Convention on Biological Diversity as it relates to the Wider Caribbean. The current projects of the CEP are specifically relevant to four of the Jakarta Mandate six themes and to all of the Mandate's identified approaches for further elaboration of the themes.
15. Specifically, taking as a basis the programme elements adopted by the Contracting Parties of the CBD in the multi-year programme of work (UNEP/CBD/COP 4/27), the following linkages with the CEP have been identified for consideration by SBSTTA:

Programme element 1. Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area management (IMCAM)

Operational objective 1.1: To review the existing instruments relevant to IMCAM and their implication for the implementation of the Convention.

Rationale for linkage with CEP: Since the adoption in 1983 of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean, the CEP has been promoting IMCAM and has developed partnerships and collaboration in this area with a great number of international, regional, sub-regional and national organisations. In 1999 Parties to the Cartagena Convention adopted the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean (LBS Protocol) expanding the scope of work of the Convention and its Secretariat.

Relevant activities in the proposed CBD workplan:

- to identify existing mechanisms and instruments relevant to IMCAM.
- to identify focal points for the implementation of IMCAM at different levels (national, regional and global).
- to convene meetings involving representatives of stakeholders at different levels.

Relevant activities in the CEP workplan:

- continued collaboration with relevant organisations, agencies and stakeholders within the region on IMCAM issues.
- continued development of database of regional experts and national focal points to CEP.
- convening of regional intergovernmental meetings, as well as workshops and consultations relevant to IMCAM and existing instruments, such as the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols

Action/Linkage Recommended:

- the CEP to collaborate by promoting IMCAM at the regional level and serve as a focal point for the implementation of IMCAM at the regional level in the Wider Caribbean.
- the CEP to provide input on matters related to the Wider Caribbean region, in the implementation of this operational objective, by contributing and/or participating in the proposed meetings and providing contacts for relevant experts, stakeholders etc. from the region

Operational objective 1.2: To promote the development and implementation of IMCAM at the local, national and regional level

Rationale for linkage with CEP: The Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Regional Programme of CEP (i) supports the activities required for the establishment and enforcement of necessary measures to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution, and (ii) provides assistance in the development of integrated environmental planning and management of coastal and marine areas. In this context, AMEP supports the implementation of the LBS Protocol. AMEP has developed common guidelines for the region on the integrated coastal area management (ICAM) and is systematically assisting Governments with the development of integrated coastal area management plans. Inventories of land-based sources of marine pollution have been completed in 26 countries of the Wider Caribbean, and activities on sewage and pesticide pollution control are underway, as well as promotion of Best Management Practices in coastal and marine areas within various sectors including coastal tourism.

Relevant activities in the proposed CBD workplan:

- to promote within IMCAM the integration of biodiversity concerns in all socio-economic sectors adversely impacting the coastal and marine environment
- to promote the identification or establishment of sub-regional, regional or global processes for developing advice on the application of IMCAM and issues identified under this operational objective
- to promote adequate protection of areas important for reproduction such as spawning and nursery areas and restoration of such areas and other important habitats for marine living resources
- to promote action to reduce and control sea-based sources of pollution
- to assist the development of national and regional capacity-building
- to assist the development of appropriate education and public awareness programmes at all levels

Relevant activities in the CEP workplan:

- development of best practices in identified main representative ecological areas of the region.
- monitoring of critical habitats such as coral reefs, associated ecosystems and watersheds.
- implementation of training programme to reduce the negative impacts of tourism activities on coastal ecosystems.

- promotion of best management practices for coastal tourism through pilot demonstration projects and development of a Regional Plan of Action outlining recommended policies and actions for sustainable tourism in the region.
- assistance to governments in the development of measures to control marine pollution namely from sewage and agricultural run-off, including reducing pesticide-runoff and assessment of sewage treatment needs in countries.
- integrating management of watersheds and coastal areas in Small Islands Development States (SIDS).
- demonstration of innovative approaches to the rehabilitation of heavily contaminated bays in the Wider Caribbean

Action/Linkage Recommended:

- the CEP to collaborate by serving as a focal point for identification and compilation of existing programmes and initiatives in the Wider Caribbean.
- the CEP to collaborate in the conservation of fragile coastal and marine ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean, through its coral reef monitoring activities, providing training on relevant methods as required and promoting regional guidelines for management. The on-going coral reef monitoring work through sub-regional nodes in co-ordination with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network should be supported and promoted by CBD to ensure wider regional participation and reduce gaps in knowledge and participation. This effort could also be used as model for expansion to other ecosystems of significance in the region and elsewhere.
- the CEP will continue to provide assistance to Governments on the development and implementation of integrated coastal area management plans and marine pollution control .
- the classification of Class I Waters under the LBS Protocol will be a very useful tool for the protection of spawning and nesting areas and other critically important marine habitats
- the integrated approach of CEP to IMCAM and its unique LBS Protocol could be used as model for other regions.

Operational objective 1.3: To develop guidelines for ecosystem evaluation and assessment, paying attention to the need to identify and select indicators, including social and abiotic indicators, that distinguish between natural and human induced effects.

Rationale for linkage with CEP: In keeping with CEP's ecosystem approach, the SPAW Regional Programme of CEP has been supporting coral reef and associated ecosystems monitoring and provides Governments with direct technical assistance in this regard, including assistance to participate in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). The CEP was designated by Governments as contact point for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) in the region and has successfully fundraised for projects in support of the Regional Agenda for Action for ICRI.

Relevant activities in the proposed CBD workplan:

- to promote the development of sets of indicators on which to base decision-making and convene regional workshops to select key indicators

- to identify existing organisations and initiatives.
- to promote the identification of key habitats for marine living resources on a regional basis,including *inter alia* coral reef systems
- to promote the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms for research, monitoring and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems and their living resources
- to collaborate with relevant organisations in the preparation of guidelines.

Relevant activities in the CEP workplan:

- Monitoring and assessment of coral reefs and associated ecosystems in co-ordination with GCRMN and other initiatives such as Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA), ReefCheck, CARICOMP etc.
- Selection of key sites and habitats for conservation and restoration in collaboration with governments, NGOs and partner organisations such as Ramsar Secretariat, ICRI, The Nature Conservancy etc.
- Socio-economic assessments of coral reefs and associated ecosystems
- Identification of indicators for pesticide impact in the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean

Action/Linkage Recommended:

- CEP to contribute to the identification of indicators and organisation of regional workshop through the identification of experts and relevant information
- CEP and CBD to promote and collaborate on coral reef monitoring activities in the Wider Caribbean
- CEP and CBD to collaborate and exchange information on selection of key habitats in the region and on identification of indicators.

Programme element 2. Marine and Coastal Living Resources

Operational Objective 2.1: To promote ecosystem approaches to the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, including the identification of key variables or interactions, for the purpose of assessing and monitoring: (i) components of biological diversity, (ii) the sustainable use of such components, and (iii) ecosystem effects.

Rationale for linkage with CEP: A relevant component of the SPAW Regional Programme has been the development of management and recovery plans for protected species under the SPAW protocol. Region-wide comprehensive conservation programmes for sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Chelonia midas*, *Lepidochelys kempii* and *L. oliacea*) and manatees (*Trichechus manatus*), which are regionally important species, have been adopted and are being implemented. Plans are to include other priority species of economic importance. National sea turtle and manatee recovery plans have also been prepared for relevant countries, as well as detailed guidelines for the region on sea turtle and manatee conservation.

These plans are in support of assessing the status of biological diversity components within an ecosystem approach in the region. Additionally, the progress made by CEP in supporting coral reef monitoring and establishing sub-regional monitoring nodes under GCRMN is a valuable contribution towards the efforts on coral reef bleaching assessment and recovery.

Relevant activities in the proposed CBD workplan:

- to develop collaborative links with relevant organisations and institutions.
- to promote the exchange of information and experience using appropriate mechanisms.
- to promote the identification and development of ecosystem approaches compatible with the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources.
- to promote the identification of both components of the ecosystems which are critical to the functioning of the ecosystem and key threats
- to promote capacity building at local, national and regional levels, including local and traditional knowledge.

Relevant activities in the CEP workplan:

- assessment of status of additional species of flora and economically important fauna in the region such as the spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) and the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*).
- assistance to countries in the implementation of common guidelines as well as the implementation of existing national recovery plans for manatees, sea turtles and migratory birds.
- promotion of species conservation through an ecosystem approach consistent with the spirit of the SPAW programme; in particular for coral reef ecosystems.

Action/Linkage Recommended:

- the CEP to collaborate by serving as a focal point for identification and compilation of existing programmes and initiatives in the Wider Caribbean.
- the CEP will continue to assist Governments in the management and sustainable use of critical species and ecosystems; in particular coral reefs.
- the CEP to serve as focal point in the dissemination of information on concepts, modes of implementation and guidance on conservation and management of marine living resources in the region.

Programme element 3. Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

Operational objective 3.1: to facilitate research and monitoring activities related to the value and the effects of marine and coastal protected areas or similarly restricted management areas on sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources.

Rationale for linkage with CEP: Under the framework of the SPAW Protocol, a network of marine protected area managers (CaMPAM) has been developed in the region to facilitate information exchange, technical assistance and problem solving among MPAs. A comprehensive training of

trainers programme has been developed and is under implementation for marine protected area managers on all aspects of MPA management. This training programme includes research and monitoring within MPAs. The SPAW Programme has developed a compilation of case studies and guide to assist protected areas in the generation of revenue. A Small Grants Fund (SGF) was established under CaMPAM to provide direct assistance to MPAs on any aspect of planning, management or operations of an MPA.

Relevant activities in the proposed CBD workplan:

- to collaborate with relevant organisations in the preparation of project proposals
- to work with relevant organisations to identify pilot projects.
- to conduct a desk study to gather and assimilate information.
- to identify linkages between conservation and sustainable use
- to facilitate Parties, countries or international/regional organisations in conducting research on the effects of marine and coastal protected or closed areas on population size and dynamics subject to national legislation.

Relevant activities in the CEP workplan:

- development of a network of “best practice” MPAs to serve as demonstration sites for other areas
- strengthening of the SPAW network of marine protected areas (CaMPAM) and their MPAs through the Small Grants Fund programme
- continue implementation of the comprehensive training of trainers programme for marine protected area managers and its expansion to local communities and NGOs as appropriate

Action/Linkage Recommended:

- the CEP to collaborate in the preparation of project proposals and identification of pilot projects, in particular through its CaMPAM network of MPAs
- the CEP to assist with the gathering and dissemination of relevant information within the Wider Caribbean region
- the CEP to collaborate in the identification of linkages between conservation and sustainable user through its network of demonstration sites and the implementation of its Small Grants Fund
- the CEP will continue to facilitate research and monitoring in MPAs through both the training and Small Grants Fund programmes

Operational objective 3.2: To develop criteria for the establishment of, and for management aspects of, marine and coastal protected areas

Rationale for linkage with CEP: The SPAW Protocol calls for the development of common guidelines and criteria for the identification, establishment and management of protected areas. These detailed guidelines have been developed and adopted by the Governments of the region, as well as general guidelines for revenue generation by protected areas and to ensure active community participation in their establishment and management. These guidelines have been made

available to the CBD Secretariat. The SPAW Programme has also developed important databases on the SPAW Protocol protected species and marine protected areas on the Wider Caribbean which also have been shared with the CBD Secretariat.

Relevant activities in the proposed CBD workplan:

- compile research findings on aspects of marine and coastal protected areas relevant to their selection, design, establishment and management
- to assist in developing criteria for selection of marine and coastal protected areas, where critical habitats for marine living resources should be one important criterion
- using the clearing-house mechanism, to assist the exchange of information on research, management issues and problems (including incentive measures) between MPA managers, to facilitate continuous improvement in management effectiveness across the global network of MPAs

Relevant activities in the CEP workplan:

- validation of guidelines developed for identification, establishment and management of protected areas, as well as for revenue generation by protected areas.
- compilation of case studies and information from the best practices MPAs serving as demonstration sites
- continue updating and mapping as appropriate the MPAs in the Wider Caribbean, including critical habitats and threats

Action/Linkage Recommended:

- the CEP to continue sharing existing guidelines, case studies and databases on MPAs of the Wider Caribbean with CBD Secretariat.
- the CEP can serve as a focal point for identification and compilation of existing programmes and initiatives related to marine protected areas in the Wider Caribbean region.
- the CBD to facilitate the use of the clearing-house mechanism by the MPAs of the region in collaboration with CEP, as well as any other information and the participation of the Wider Caribbean in CBD sponsored activities relevant to MPAs.

Programme element 6. General

Operational objective 6.1: To assemble a database of initiatives on programme elements through a co-operative approach with relevant organisations and bodies, with special emphasis on integrated marine and coastal areas management.

Rationale for linkage with CEP: The focus of CEP has been management of coastal and marine resources through regional co-operation over the last 20 years. Through the years the Programme has developed numerous activities on this area in collaboration and partnership with governments of the region, as well as local, sub-regional, regional and international organisations. This expertise

will be helpful to implement this operational objective and the exchange of information should also enhance co-ordination between both Secretariats.

Relevant activities in the proposed CBD workplan:

- to identify sources of relevant information and to make this readily available
- to request inputs from Parties, countries and relevant organisations and bodies
- to carry out desk evaluations with the assistance of the roster of experts of available information and to disseminate the findings through the clearing-house mechanism.

Relevant activities in the CEP workplan:

- continued co-ordination with governments and relevant organisations of various aspects of coastal and marine areas management
- development and maintenance of databases of relevant experts, organisations, projects and activities

Action/Linkage Recommended:

- the CEP to share its databases and other relevant information with the CBD Secretariat and vice versa.
- the CEP to inform and invite CBD Secretariat to its meetings and vice versa.

Operational objective 6.2: To develop a database of experts from the roster and other sources to be available for the development and implementation of specific elements of national policies on marine and coastal biological diversity... Special consideration should be given to regional perspectives and the setting up of regional centres of taxonomic expertise, as well as to the taxonomy efforts of other intergovernmental programmes, agencies and relevant institutions.

Rationale for linkage with CEP: Through its 20 years of operations the CEP has worked in collaboration with numerous national and international experts on various aspects of coastal and marine biodiversity. This expertise could be useful for the implementation of this operational objective. The CEP also requires experts to assist with programme development and implementation and the CBD roster of experts could also be useful to CEP.

Relevant activities in the proposed CBD workplan:

- to maintain and up-date regularly a database of experts on marine and coastal biological diversity
- to make the information available through the clearing-house mechanism
- to promote the strengthening of taxonomic expertise at regional and national levels.

Relevant activities in the CEP workplan:

- continued development and update of database of experts on coastal and marine issues
- meetings of experts convened on particular coastal and marine issues

Action/Linkage Recommended:

- the CEP to share its database of experts with CBD Secretariat and vice versa
- the CEP to invite CBD Secretariat to meetings of experts and vice versa
- the CBD to make available its clearing house mechanism to CEP

IV. PROPOSED GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE CBD AND THE CARTAGENA CONVENTIONS

16. It is clear that the development of programmatic linkages between the Convention on Biological Diversity and a regional programme, such as the Caribbean Environment Programme and its legal framework (the Cartagena Convention) will be mutually beneficial to assist Parties to meet their obligations under both Conventions.

17. It is proposed that the above co-operative linkages be further developed and operate under the following principles:

(i) the role of the Caribbean Environment Programme would be that of a lead partner in the regional co-ordination of marine and coastal biodiversity activities relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Wider Caribbean Region; including those outlined in the Jakarta Mandate.

(ii) co-operative operational and substantive linkages would be structured in a flexible manner in order to accommodate relevant collaborating partners, as well as other entities concerned with the conservation of biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean such as other biodiversity related conventions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. In this context, the convening of a workshop of interested partners might be desirable. The Sixth Meeting of SBSTTA may wish to recommend to the Executive Director of the CBD, that such a workshop be organised and convened with guidance provided by SBSTTA and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention. It is considered highly desirable that the Secretariats or equivalents of organisations invited to the Workshop contribute to its planning process.

(iii) given the flexibility and comprehensiveness of the provisions in the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention, it is recognised that co-operative linkages, while concentrating on marine and coastal activities can potentially be expanded to cover conservation of related inland/ terrestrial biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean region.

(iv) appropriate linkages should be explored between the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) under the CBD and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention, and the SPAW Regional Activity Centre and SPAW network in order to enhance co-ordination and avoid duplication.

18. A factor which could contribute to the successful implementation of the CBD in the Wider Caribbean might well be the ratification or accession to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, as well as to the major global sectoral conventions by all Wider Caribbean States. These conventions provide modalities for the detailed implementation of the general obligations of the CBD. Particularly significant would be ratification of the comprehensive Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Cartagena Convention, which entered into force on 18 June 2000. This would be an important commitment to the objectives of conservation of biodiversity in the region. All applicable Wider Caribbean States are urged to consider such action.