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

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27 September 2004

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean (SPAW), held in Kingston, 15-18 January 1990, adopted the SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 23 of the SPAW Protocol provides for the convening and functioning of the Meetings of the Parties. In light of the above, and in keeping with Decision No. II of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 May 2002, this Meeting was convened by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 27 September 2004.
2. The Meeting had the following objectives:
 - a) Review and Adopt the Revised Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol;
 - b) Review and take appropriate action on the Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol;
 - c) Review the Report of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) on the Operations of the RAC;
 - d) Review and take appropriate action on the Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC2) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3–6 June 2003); and
 - e) Review and finalize for adoption the Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2004 - 2005 biennium.
3. The experts invited to the Meeting were nominated by the national focal points of the Governments that constitute the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol. Additionally, representatives of governments that are non-Contracting Parties and of international, regional, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations were invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. The list of participants to the Meeting is included in Annex IV of this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Meeting was opened on Monday, 27 September 2004, at 9:30 a.m. by Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme.
5. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Andrade Colmenares, welcomed the Contracting Parties, member governments, NGOs and members of the scientific community. He noted that he was very pleased to see the wide participation despite recent and devastating natural

events that had affected the region in the last few weeks. He stressed that deforestation and improper coastal development had made the impact of those natural events even more tragic and devastating, making the relevance and importance of the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol even greater at this time. In this context, he called the attention of the Meeting to the Reefs@Risk report developed under the framework of the International Coral Reef Network (ICRAN) and SPAW, which highlights the threats to Caribbean coastal ecosystems from land-based activities and the potential socio-economic impacts of these threats.

6. Mr. Andrade was pleased to note the progress of the SPAW Programme in the recent years and in the implementation of the Protocol. The Coordinator further highlighted the very active fundraising carried out by the Secretariat and expressed his gratitude towards donors such as the Swedish Government through Sida, and the Governments of France, the USA and the Netherlands Antilles.
7. He noted that the Secretariat will remain committed to the fundraising efforts and delivery of the Programme, however, he stressed that the continued support and active participation by member governments is required to ensure success. In this context, he urged the Contracting Parties to consider hosting future meetings of SPAW as a mechanism of support the Programme and he drew the attention of the Meeting to the organization of the STAC meeting to be held in 2005. He concluded by highlighting the objectives of the Meeting and by wishing the participants a very productive day.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8. The Meeting elected from among the experts the following officers of the Meeting:

Chairperson:	Mr. Tom Laughlin	(USA)
Vice-chairperson:	Ms. Lorna Inniss	(Barbados)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Aleidi Sangronis	(Venezuela)

AGENDA ITEM 3: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

a) Rules of Procedure

9. The Meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP, as contained in document UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3.

b) Organization of work

10. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. The working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.

11. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions only, as working groups were not established by the Chairperson. Simultaneous interpretation in the working languages was available for the Meeting.
12. The Chairman of the Meeting, before proceeding with the agenda, called for a moment of silence for all those who had suffered during this hurricane season in the Wider Caribbean Region.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

13. The Meeting was invited to adopt the agenda of the Meeting as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/1. There were no amendments to the proposed agenda, which was adopted as reflected in Annex I to this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 5: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPA W) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

14. The secretariat invited the Meeting to review and approve the Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA W) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3-6 June 2003) (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6, Annex II), and to take any further action as appropriate.
15. The Meeting adopted the recommendations, which did not require further discussion and agreed to consider the other recommendations under the relevant agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DECISIONS OF THE SPA W COP2 AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND MEETINGS OF STAC AND STATUS OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

16. The Secretariat presented the "Decisions of the SPA W COP2 and Recommendations of the First and Second Meetings of STAC and Status of their Implementation", (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF 3), which summarizes the level of implementation of these decisions. Additionally, the Secretariat also presented the document "Revised Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPA W Regional Programme for the 2002-2003 Biennium" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/4.Rev.1), to complement and support the discussions under this agenda item.

17. The Secretariat noted with satisfaction that all Decisions of the STAC1 and COP2 had been implemented and several of the Recommendations of STAC2 were well underway, as previously agreed at other meetings. With regard to programme coordination, the secretariat informed on the activities to promote the SPAW Protocol and Programme and the coordination and cooperation established with regional programmes and global initiatives, such as UNEP-ROLAC, ICRI, WCPA-Marine, MBRS, and SIDS-POA. She noted that the SPAW/RAC was made operational on 1 January 2003 by the Government of France and since then, close and very effective collaboration had been established with the new team.
18. Major fundraising efforts were also undertaken by the Secretariat, including the US\$ 3 million grant for the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef from the UN Foundation and USAID and additional funding for specific activities of the Programme from organisations like the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and IFAW and from member governments such as France, the Netherlands Antilles and the USA.
19. With regard to the strengthening of protected areas, the Secretariat noted that Small Grants had been awarded to MPAs in Jamaica, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago and the Netherlands Antilles and the reactivation of the CaMPAM network as an outcome of White Water to Blue Water. This included the maintenance of the CaMPAM list-serve, updating of the database and coordination with WCPA and GCFI. The regional Workshop on the Guidelines for Protected Areas Listing was convened with the support of the Government of France and the SPAW/RAC in April 2004. Additionally, the secretariat collaborated with IUCN and WCPA-Marine to ensure Caribbean representation at the World Parks Congress, in Durban, South Africa, in September 2003. The secretariat also presented a regional report on Caribbean biodiversity and made a presentation on the SPAW Protocol at this event.
20. The area of capacity-building was advanced through the implementation of two regional training courses under the Training of Trainers Programme for MPAs, held in St. Lucia and Florida respectively.
21. As mandated by the COP2, criteria for the listing species under the SPAW Protocol were developed through the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Parties and experts, coordinated by the Netherlands Antilles and presented to STAC2. Additionally, spawning aggregations assessment (SPAG) and training took place training over 60 fisheries officers and a regional strategy for SPAGs was also developed. The SPAW species database was made Internet accessible at www.cep.unep.org, and efforts are underway to have it updated.
22. Coordination was established with fisheries organisations (CFRAMP, FAO-WECAFC, GCFI, CRFM) and a consultancy on the planning of marine mammal action plan was organised by the SPAW/RAC in Guadeloupe in May 2003. The manatee recovery plan for Trinidad and Tobago (including awareness and stakeholder consultation) was completed and collaboration with the UNEP-GEF/BirdLife Project on bird habitat conservation in the Caribbean, was undertaken.

23. With regard to coral reef related activities, coordination with ICRI continued and the ICRI Regional Workshop for the Tropical Americas, Cancun, Mexico, from 12 to 14 June 2002, was organised and convened. Coordination was maintained with the Blue Flag initiative, in particular to contribute towards the development of the beach criteria.
24. The ICRAN Caribbean activities included support to coral reef monitoring and subregional nodes (N, S and E Caribbean), Reef Check activities, and coordination and linkages with the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project (MBRS). Additional activities supported the MPA demonstration sites and target sites to share best practices and lessons learnt; increase awareness and provide education on coral reefs and related ecosystems; promote best practices within local communities; implement alternative livelihood strategies within coastal communities; influence policy changes and action; and access funds from donor agencies to finance project activities.
25. The Secretariat concluded by highlighting the major challenges to the SPAW Programme, which included the minimal funding received during the biennium other than that from the UN Foundation/ICRAN, limited staff capacity at RCU (balancing between numerous projects, fundraising/promotion and CEP meetings), often insufficient responses and participation from governments and their institutions, and the coordination with numerous organisations, programmes and initiatives which was very time consuming and demanding.
26. The Meeting was invited to provide comments on the actions undertaken or underway, as well as to make inputs to assist with the completion of activities. The Meeting welcomed the presentations and commended the Secretariat for the substantive progress made during the biennium and for the proactive and strategic manner in which the Programme had been implemented considering the limited resources available.
27. A question was raised on future plans to follow-up on the spawning aggregation activities within the SPAW Programme. The secretariat noted the importance of identifying spawning aggregation sites to promote conservation in these areas and as such, this is a very useful tool for the implementation of the SPAW Protocol. Currently, the activity continues to be developed in the region by TNC and other organizations with their own funding and coordination will take place to enable the results to be used by SPAW.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE REVISED CRITERIA FOR THE LISTING OF SPECIES IN THE ANNEXES OF THE SPAW PROTOCOL

28. The secretariat presented the "Revised Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol" as contained in Annex VI of document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6, developed in keeping with Recommendations 4 to 7 of the First Meeting of the STAC and Decisions No. IV and 3 to 5, of COP1 and COP2 (respectively) of the SPAW Protocol, and took into account the Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the STAC (STAC2) (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3-6 June 2003).

29. During this presentation, the secretariat briefly outlined the mandate and the development process for the criteria, carried out through the Ad Hoc Working Group established by the STAC1 and coordinated by the Government of the Netherlands Antilles. In this context, the representative of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles was invited to present to the COP, the outcome of the work of the Group and the revised criteria finalised by the STAC2.
30. The Meeting was invited to review and adopt the Revised Criteria as recommended by the STAC2, as well as to consider and advise on Recommendation II of STAC2 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6, Annex II), regarding the procedure for the submission and approval of nominations of species for inclusion in, or deletion from, Annexes I, II and III.
31. The Meeting made a number of comments and provided minor amendments to the revised criteria and approved the nomination process to begin to include in, or withdraw from, Annex I, II and III. The notion of population dynamics was introduced as a specific concept within criterion 1. A Delegation propose that the existing scheme or instrument of certification also be taken into account, where appropriate, to which some Delegation indicated that there is no consensus with respect to the mechanism of certification, which was made evident in the Forum of Forest and Other Multilateral Agreements and International Organisms, for this reason, it was not considered opportune that a recommendation be accepted in that sense. In this context, one delegation considered that the exchange of experiences and cooperation on this issue in the future implementation of the Protocol would be useful and desirable. The criteria and nomination process as adopted by the Meeting are included in Annexes V and VI, respectively, to this Report.
32. The Meeting was also reminded to consider Decision 9 of COP2 regarding the interpretation and implementation of Article 11(2) and the development of criteria for the assessment of exemptions by the STAC. The Meeting agreed to include a specific activity on this issue within the proposed Workplan and Budget for the 2004-2005 biennium.

AGENDA ITEM 8: REPORT OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW/RAC) ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE RAC DURING 2002 - 2004

33. The Director of the Regional Activity Centre presented the "Report of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) on the Operations of the RAC during 2002-2004" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.5), covering the period since the SPAW COP2, (Montego Bay, 6 May 2002).
34. Mr. Anselme reminded the meeting that the SPAW/RAC is at the service of the Contracting Parties and assists the secretariat with implementation of projects and recommendations of COP and STAC meetings.

35. He informed the participants that the SPAW/RAC was made operational by the Government of France, in particular, by assigning additional staff effective 1 January 2003. The RAC also benefits of the technical and logistical support of the Regional Environmental Department of Guadeloupe (DIREN). The creation of an autonomous management unit that will endow the SPAW/RAC with a legal status under the French regulation is under finalization.
36. In his report he highlighted the main areas of support to the programme. The RAC provided general assistance and administrative support to the Secretariat for activities such as the correction of French versions of documents and publications, the commissioning of a French edition of the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols, design of a logo for the RAC and production of a trilingual brochure presenting the SPAW/RAC. The RAC also participated on its own funds in various conferences or meeting in order to promote the SPAW Protocol.
37. The SPAW/RAC participated in fundraising in initiating an agreement between the DIREN Guadeloupe and UNEP-CAR/RCU with regard to a financial contribution to support the development of the marine mammals action plan for the Wider Caribbean, the training of local personnel under the marine protected areas programme (in Antigua, Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guatemala, Saint Lucia, Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guyana), and the publication of lessons learned from coral reef management projects under the ICRAN framework.
38. In agreement with SPAW Workplan and STAC2 recommendation, the SPAW/RAC hosted and organized meetings and workshops such as the experts meeting in Saint Claude, Guadeloupe from 2–5 May 2003, to initiate discussions on the development of the action plan for marine mammals, and a regional workshop for the development of Guidelines and criteria for the listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol (April 2004, Gosier, Guadeloupe). Mr. Anselme informed the Meeting that The SPAW/RAC also coordinated the informal Working Group on Internet in charge of developing the draft guidelines and that the result of the Working Group and Workshop discussions will be presented under point 9 by his colleague Mr. Stephane Defranoux.
39. He concluded in presenting the outlines of the SPAW/RAC workplan for 2004-2005. The SPAW/RAC will continue to take part in translating, publication and dissemination of documents for the promotion of the SPAW Protocol. Further proposed activities included the continuation of the elaboration of the Guidelines and Criteria for the listing of Protected Areas under SPAW and the continuation of the elaboration of guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered through an Ah Hoc group. He also proposed that the SPAW/RAC continues to coordinate the development of the Marine Mammal Action Plan with relevant organizations and works for the convening of a workshop in 2005.
40. The Meeting was invited to make comments and observations on the presentation.
41. The Meeting thanked the SPAW/RAC for the development of Guidelines for the listing of Protected Areas and their hard work, as well as thanked Government of France for the support of the RAC.

AGENDA ITEM 9: REVISED DRAFT GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF PROTECTED AREAS TO BE LISTED UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL

42. The Secretariat and the SPAW/RAC presented the "Revised Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/3), as well as the "Report of the Workshop on the Draft Guidelines for the Listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG. 26/5), prepared and presented in accordance with Recommendations III through IV of the STAC 2, and Decision II of the SPAW COP2.
43. The information documents "Draft Annotated Format for Presentation Reports for the Areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/3), and "Draft Grid for the Objective Evaluation of Proposals for Inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/4), were also made available to the Meeting as support documents for this agenda item, and for their consideration as appropriate.
44. The project coordinator of the SPAW/RAC, Mr. Defranoux, provided the Meeting with a summary on the development of the Guidelines. He outlined the process of development of the draft Guidelines as per Recommendation No. IV of the STAC 2 in Curaçao in 2003, and reminded the Meeting that the Contracting Parties to SPAW, and other members of the SPAW list-serve were invited in September 2003 to nominate experts to participate in an informal Working Group on Internet and to assist in the process. The draft Guidelines document was discussed during a meeting organized by the SPAW/RAC (Gosier, Guadeloupe, 19-23 April 2004), and the "Report of the Workshop on the Draft Guidelines for the Listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/5) was made available to the Meeting as support documents for this agenda item, and for its consideration as appropriate.
45. In his presentation, the SPAW/RAC representative noted that the revised draft Guidelines were developed taking into consideration a number of general principles, which aim at the conservation of Caribbean natural resources. He further noted that the importance of developing cooperative agreements on a bilateral and multilateral basis for the conservation and management of natural sites; and the development of a regional representative network of protected areas; were also highlighted as important principles of the Guidelines
46. He explained that the Working Group chose to distinguish mandatory criteria from alternative or cumulative one by mentioning respectively "must, should or may". With regard to the "Cultural and Socio-economic Criteria", there was consensus that it would be mandatory to fulfil at least one of the criteria mentioned. It was also agreed that a legal status and management plan guaranteeing effective long-term protection must be present as well as a monitoring programme that allows for assessing the effectiveness of the management plan to achieve its goals.

47. Regarding Point C.II of the Guidelines “Protected Areas on the High seas”, He noted that it was agreed that given the definitions specified in the Protocol, and the fact that legal experts were not present in the Working Group, it was better to leave this section in brackets, to be discussed at a later date, in the finalization process of the Guidelines.
48. The SPAW/RAC representative informed the Meeting that the documents: “Draft Annotated Format for Presentation Reports for the Areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List” (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/3), and “Draft Grid for the Objective Evaluation of Proposals for inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List” (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/4) were also made available to the Meeting as support documents for this agenda item, and for their consideration as appropriate. He pointed out that although not specifically requested by the Parties, these two documents were developed by the Working Group in an effort to assist the Contracting Parties and the STAC with the reporting and evaluation of the areas nominated.
49. The Secretariat and the SPAW/RAC further requested the Meeting to consider renewing their mandate to continue with the finalization of the guidelines.
50. The Meeting was invited to make comments and observations on the document presented.
51. The Government of the Netherlands Antilles, as part of the working group, also invited the Parties to indicate what the direction of the listing process of protected areas should be -open or restricted – if the list of PA’s is to be very open it is important to note what could motivate Parties to nominate their PA’s. The Netherlands Antilles further pointed out that the criteria can be less restrictive, in particular with respect to management plans, and proposed that where the criteria now read “must” have a management plan, the word “should” might be used instead, however, with the added requirement that a management plan is to be developed within a specific time. The Working Group should define the objective and scope of the foreseen PA network, and in principle it should be a network to enhance cooperation, not a geographical network.
52. Regarding the obligation of a management plan it was pointed out that there are some effective areas without management plans. In the Mediterranean Protocol, protected areas have a requirement to develop a management plan within three years of listing and the Meeting discussed this approach as well. It was agreed that more discussion is needed to clarify the core set of minimum standards and in particular, clarify what level of management requirements should be placed on nominee sites as well as consider how much flexibility the STAC should have in assessing these requirements.
53. The delegate from the USA noted that the geographic boundaries of this protocol are clearly defined in Article 2 (1) of the Convention and Article 1 of the Protocol. Because the boundaries exclude the high seas, he suggested that these draft guidelines address protected areas on the high seas.
54. For regional ecological coherence of the network, the delegate from France suggested that it would be also necessary to think of the concept of ecological corridors, which would deserve to be included in the guidelines.

55. Several delegates raised the need of clarifications for the aim and purpose of the SPAW List. They further pointed out the contributions of the regional network to be established in accordance with Article 7, in achieving the targets of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). They considered that the revision of the Guidelines should take in consideration these global agreements.
56. The delegate from the United Kingdom (UK) raised two general issues concerning the process and objectives of the Protected Areas work and development of guidelines. Firstly, the purpose and aim of the network of Protected Areas, as required in Article 7 (2), needs clarification in the guidelines document so that the Parties are clear as to what the network should ultimately constitute. The guidelines currently include relevant issues such as representing the range of habitats within ecoregions. The government of the (UK) has prepared a paper on networks to be presented to a meeting of the OSPAR Commission in October 2004, which could be of assistance on this issue. Secondly, the requirements for Parties to compile information on proposed sites, and for the STAC to assess these proposals, as reflected in draft formats and assessment grids, appears, to be rather onerous and needs to be considered so that Parties are encouraged to contribute sites to the SPAW list and develop an effective network of protected areas for the region within a reasonable timeframe.
57. Regarding the network and its composition, the delegates from Colombia and Cuba expressed that the Guidelines should leave clearly established the responsibility for the Parties with regard to the designation of the protected areas in they own country. The delegate from Colombia expressed also its wish to make other specific proposal on the Guidelines through the Working Group. With respect to the subject of the Ecological Networks, the Cuban Delegation, also raised, that having just finished CoP 7 of CBD, where a concept for ecological networks had been adopted after lengthy and complex debates, in which many delegations of the States present had participated, reasoned that it was not considered relevant nor opportune in the CEP and the Cartagena Convention to adopt the “Ecological Networks” concept which has differing content and reach from what was adopted in CBD, which was supported by the majority of the delegations present.
58. The delegate from the USA noted that the Workshop on the draft guidelines for the listing of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol identified at least one procedural issue that the COP should address the Meeting; the linkage between guidelines required under Article 21 and those developed to facilitate the listing process under Article 7. He suggested therefore that the draft guidelines on protected area listing should be developed concurrently with the completion of the common protected area criteria and guidelines developed under Article 21 (Technical Report N°37) and be submitted at the same time to the STAC and COP.
59. The Delegate from Saint Lucia noted that with regard to the Draft Grid for the Objective Evaluation of Proposals for Inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List, it appears that for objective evaluation of the responses in the grid, a further set of criteria will be needed for assessment of responses. There are qualitative – type responses of

yes/no and quantitative type responses from 0-3. How many yes/no responses, or what score level qualifies an area to be listed? The Working Group needs to consider this in its deliberations to ensure that the grid allows for truly objective evaluation.

60. Suggestions were made by Monitor Caribbean to add the references SPAW Article 3, paragraph 3, and Article 10, Paragraph 1 last sentence, to the references in AII bullet 3, as these are the two additional relevant SPAW references to this subject in Article 3, General Obligations and Article 10, National Measures for the Protection of Wild Flora and Fauna.
61. The Cuban Delegation joined with the rest of the Delegations in congratulating the SPAW/RAC for the excellent work done coordinating the protected areas working group and noted that the document presented by the *ad hoc* working group is an open text that requires continued development. The SPAW/RAC requested support to extend the mandate of the *Ad hoc* working group in order to finalize the Guidelines.

AGENDA ITEM 10: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM

62. The secretariat made a presentation on the "Revised Draft Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2004 - 2005 Biennium" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.Rev.1), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the Decisions of the Thirteenth Monitoring Committee Meeting and the SPAW COP2. The SPAW Workplan and Budget had originally been presented to the STAC2, which provided inputs as reflected in this revised document.
63. The Meeting was reminded of Recommendation III of STAC2 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6, Annex II), on the development and implementation of the draft guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered with extinction and to consider the relevant actions within the biennium.
64. The delegate from St. Lucia, referred to the Conference Room Paper (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/CRP.1) which she had introduced as a COP3 document during the discussion of Agenda Item 5, as a possible modification of the decision on Agenda Item 5, Recommendation III, when Agenda Item 10, paragraph 63 is addressed later. She recommended that paragraph 2 of the CRP.1 be adopted as a decision of the Meeting. This recommendation was strongly supported by both the Netherlands Antilles and Barbados and, after a brief discussion it became a decision of the Meeting.
65. The Meeting was invited to review the revised Workplan and Budget and provide specific comments and recommendations for its adoption. Subsequently, the Workplan and Budget will be presented to the Eleventh IGM and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention as part of the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2004 to 2005, for final adoption.

66. The secretariat in making its presentation, noted that the 2004-2005 draft Workplan included Recommendations of the four ISTAC Meetings and the First and Second STAC, the Decisions of COP1 and COP2, and existing and emerging programmes and initiatives. The Workplan focuses on activities to implement the SPAW Programme, coordination with other regional programmes and organizations dealing with protected areas and wildlife, and coordination with relevant global initiatives and multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar), and the World Heritage Sites Convention.
67. The Workplan comprises eight programme elements (sub-programmes) including three new sub-programmes which were previously embedded in other activities of the Programme:
- Programme Coordination
 - Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region
 - Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management
 - Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species
 - Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems
 - International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) in the Wider Caribbean
 - Training in Protected Areas and Wildlife Management, and
 - Sustainable Tourism.
68. With regard to Programme coordination, a Programme Officer at CAR/RCU will continue to provide day-to-day coordination for the implementation of the Programme, with assistance from the Junior Programme Officer for SPAW provided by SIDA, and the ICRAN Project Manager responsible for the relevant sub-programme, in conjunction with the SPAW/RAC and other partners where relevant. A major component of coordination will be to continue fundraising efforts in collaboration with relevant governments, donors and partner organizations. During 2005, the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region will be organized and convened, provided funding is available. The secretariat, in consultation with governments and partners, will develop the 2006 2007 Workplan for SPAW.
69. With respect to the activities for strengthening protected areas, the guidelines for protected areas evaluation and listing under SPAW should be completed and the protected area listing and network could be initiated. Increased collaboration with partners to address the issues of invasive species, support where appropriate and feasible the nomination of additional World Heritage Sites which meet SPAW objectives, dissemination of the guidelines on MPA co-management effectiveness, coordination with the WCPA-Marine and NOAA's Regional Coordination Plan (RCP) initiative for marine reserves, and strengthening of the Marine Protected Area Network

(CaMPAM), its list serve and MPA database in close collaboration with the GCFI, TNC, IUCN and others, will be undertaken.

70. With regard to other regional guidelines, the secretariat indicated that it would continue to move the process forward to develop the guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered and assessing socio-economic impacts in protected areas. The secretariat also noted that as requested by the COP2, the issue of exemptions under Article 11.2 could be addressed by developing specific criteria
71. With regard to species conservation efforts, the secretariat proposes to support where relevant, the implementation of existing and the development of new, Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs), and manatee recovery plans, as well as to continue the development of the regional marine mammal action plan, which will include a regional workshop of experts in early 2005. These will be implemented in part with funding received in 2004 from the U.S. Government and IFAW.
72. A major area of work will also involve the implementation of the Caribbean activities of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) in support of the ICRI. These activities involve tangible management actions within MPAs; capacity-building for MPA managers; the identification of critical areas for increased management action through the Reefs@Risk analysis; which had been completed recently, monitoring and assessment exercises; and the sharing of information on best practices and lessons learnt through effective public education and outreach strategies.
73. In addition to coral reefs, the conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems in SPAW will also include a regional assessment on the status of mangroves, to be prepared in consultation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, if funding becomes available.
74. A major outcome of ICRAN-Caribbean during 2003 was the successful negotiation with USAID of a US\$1.5 million grant to develop the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) for a total of US\$3 million for 3 years, with matching funds from the U.N. Foundation. The ICRAN MAR Project Coordinator noted that this major activity of ICRAN in the Caribbean, involves a comprehensive set of interlinked activities being initiated in collaboration with ICRAN partners and in close coordination with the GEF/Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS) and the PROARCA Projects. The activities of the MAR cover three major cross-linked themes: Integrated watershed management, sustainable fisheries and sustainable tourism.
75. The area of capacity-building remains a focus for the SPAW Programme and training programmes will continue to develop the capacity of governments and coastal zone practitioners in the management of MPAs, coastal ecosystems and priority species. It was noted that the secretariat should continue to fundraise to implement the MPA Training of Trainers Programme. Two more courses and follow-up training activities are planned for this biennium.
76. A number of activities are planned to promote sustainable tourism in the region. These include collaboration with initiatives of relevant partners such as: CTO, CAST, the OECS-ESDU and UNEP-DTIE to coordinate capacity-building exercises and continue

the development of policies and strategies to mitigate the negative impact of tourism activities on the environment.

77. With regard to the proposed overall budget for SPAW, it was noted that as a result of the fundraising efforts during 2003-2004, a significant amount of funds had been raised from donors such as USAID, SIDA, IFAW, NOAA, and NFWF, to implement the planned activities. However, in order to achieve the targets set in the Workplan, funding-raising has to continue, given the financial situation of the Caribbean Trust Fund, although it was highlighted that much could be accomplished through strategic alliances with partners, which often did not require cash flow.
78. All delegations and observers joined the Chairman in commending the Secretariat on the Workplan presented and collectively indicated that the Workplan was ambitious but necessary. The secretariat was commended for the successful fundraising efforts to date and for the strategic alliances and synergies being forged with relevant organizations, secretariats and initiatives.
79. The delegation of the U.S. A. encouraged member governments to actively consider the role of the Small Grants Fund (SGF) of CaMPAM as an opportunity to respond to one-time needs of MPAs and to assist the secretariat in securing additional funds to maintain this mechanism alive. He took the opportunity to inform the Meeting about two grant funds for coral reefs from NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation respectively, to which governments as well as NGOs could apply.
80. With regard to the issue of assessment of exemptions under Article 11.2, there was discussion on whether or not criteria were required, their purpose, and to whom the criteria should be targeted. The secretariat clarified that Article 11.2 calls for the STAC “to assess the pertinence of the exemptions granted” by the Parties. Given the precedence at STAC1, which assessed the exemption, by the Government of the Netherlands Antilles for the dolphinarium in Curaçao, it was desirable that criteria be made available to facilitate the assessment by the STAC. In this context, the Meeting agreed with the proposed activity as presented in the draft Workplan.
81. With regard to the activities on coastal and marine ecosystems, the delegation of France suggested that in addition to mangroves, the same activity be developed for sea grass beds. This was agreed by the Meeting.
82. The delegate from Barbados urged those governments, non-Parties to SPAW, to ratify the Protocol and to use it more actively as a tool for preserving their natural environment. The delegation of Venezuela reiterated their offer to host the Third Meeting of STAC, possibly in June or July of 2005. They took the opportunity to inform the Meeting about the upcoming Second Meeting of the Parties of the Interamerican Sea Turtle Convention, to be held in Margarita, Venezuela from 26 to 29 November 2004, and they urged all governments to attend and join the Convention, and the SPAW secretariat to continue their coordination with this Convention.

AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS

83. The participants of the Meeting were invited to raise other issues not covered by the preceding agenda items, but which may be relevant to the scope of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

84. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the draft Decisions of the Meeting. The Meeting adopted the Decisions, with amendments and corrections as reflected in Annex II of this Report. The Report of the Meeting (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/4) was submitted to the participants by electronic mail for revision and adoption in December 2004.

AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

85. The Chairman of the Meeting and the Secretariat offered closing remarks. In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked all delegates and observers for their productive and concise contributions under the different agenda items, which allowed for the successful completion of the one-day agenda of work in the limited time available.
86. The secretariat thanked all the participants for their active participation and urged them to maintain the same level of involvement during the intersessional period. The secretariat also thanked the Chairman for the excellent conduct of the Meeting and the Rapporteur for the assistance provided.
87. The Meeting was closed at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, 27 September 2004, by the Chairman and the secretariat.

ANNEX I: AGENDA

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Organisation of the Meeting
 - a) Rules of Procedure
 - b) Organisation of Work
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region.
6. Decisions of the SPA COP2 and Recommendations of the First and Second Meetings of STAC and Status of their Implementation.
7. Adoption of the Revised Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPA Protocol.
8. Report of the Regional Activity Centre for SPA (SPA/RAC) on the Operations of the RAC during 2002–2004.
9. Revised Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPA Protocol
10. Workplan and Budget of the SPA Regional Programme for the 2004-2005 Biennium.
11. Other Business
12. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
13. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II: DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region
Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27 September 2004

The Contracting Parties:

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

Noting the decisions of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 May 2002); and the Recommendations of the First Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, (Havana, Cuba, 27-29 September 2001);

Having reviewed the Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEC)/CARWG.25/6);

Taking note of the Decisions of the SPAW COP2 and Recommendations of the First and Second Meetings of STAC and Status of their Implementation (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.3), and the Revised Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2002-2003 biennium (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/4.Rev.1);

Having reviewed the Revised Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol (contained in Annex VI of UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6);

Having reviewed the Report of the Workshop on the Draft Guidelines for the Listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol U(NEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/5) and the Revised Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/3);

Having reviewed the Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2004 – 2005 biennium (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.Rev.1); and

Taking note of the Report of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) on the Operations of the RAC during 2004-2005 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.5);

Decide to:

1. **Encourage** the governments of the region which have not yet done so to become Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the SPAW Protocol.
2. **Approve** the Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region.
3. **Approve** the Revised Criteria for the listing of species in the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol, as well as the nomination procedure proposed by the STAC2 with the amendments proposed by the Meeting as reflected in Annexes V and VI respectively of this report.
4. **Requests** the Scientific and Advisory Technical Committee to consider existing capabilities and mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on listed species and consider how the 2006-2007 biennium workplan can provide assistance to this effort and report back to the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties
5. **Extend** the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the guidelines for protected areas to be listed under SPAW and **request** the Group to continue its work towards the finalization of the guidelines for presentation to the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and to work, if feasible on the supporting documents UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/3 and UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/4 following the comments provided by the Meeting as reflected in this report.
6. **Welcome** the offer reiterated by the Government of Venezuela, to host the Third Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) and request the Secretariat to further develop this proposal.
7. **Endorse** for approval by the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting and Eight Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the revised Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium and with modifications introduced by the Meeting.
8. **To include** the issue of the interpretation and implementation of Article 11 paragraph 2, including the development of criteria for the assessment of exemptions by the STAC, in the Agenda of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
9. **Approve** paragraph 2, Conference Room Paper 1, UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/CRP.1 as a decision of the Meeting. This will advance the development of draft guidelines to prevent species from becoming endangered or threatened with extinction (COP 1 Decision IV, 5). (See paragraph 64, this Report)

ANEXO III: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/3	Revised Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.Rev.1	Revised Draft Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6 (Annex II)	Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3–6 June 2003)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6 (Annex VI)	Revised Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol (contained in Report of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3–6 June 2003)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/4	Report of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (including Decisions) (<i>to be prepared during the Meeting</i>)

Information Documents

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants (to be finalised during the Meeting)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.3	Decisions of the SPAW COP2 and Recommendations of the First and Second Meetings of STAC and Status of their Implementation
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.4	Directory of members of the SPAW Protocol e-group (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.5	Report of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) on the Operations of the RAC during 2002–2004

UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/4.Rev.1	Revised Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2002 – 2003 Biennium
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/3	Draft Annotated Format for Presentation Reports for the Areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/4	Draft Grid for the Objective Evaluation of Proposals for inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/5	Report of the Workshop on the Draft Guidelines for the Listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol (Gosier, Guadeloupe, 19 – 23 April 2004)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/3	Final Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.21/INF.3	Report of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 May 2002)

Conference Room Papers

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/CRP.1	Agenda Item 10, Paragraph 21: Consideration of Relevant Actions Within the Biennium for the Development of Draft Guidelines to Prevent Species from Becoming Endangered or Threatened with Extinction
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/CRP.2	Annexes to the Report of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/4: Annex II,V and VI

Reference Documents

UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.3	Status of Implementation of the Decisions of the SPAW COP1 and COP2 and of the Recommendations of the First Meeting of STAC
ICRI/UNEP 2002	Report of the Regional Workshop for the Tropical Americas. (Cancun, Mexico, 12 to 14 June 2002) (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/4	Structure and Scope of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPAW Protocol
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/5	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)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/6	Priorities for implementation following the entry into force of the SPAW Protocol: responsibilities for the Contracting Parties, for the STAC and for the Secretariat
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/7	Report of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/INF.7	The International Coral Reef Activity Network (ICRAN): A global partnership for coral reefs - A summary (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.23/6	Report of the First Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Havana, Cuba, 27-29 September 2001)
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/5	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Havana, Cuba, 3-6 August 1999)
UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/6	Report of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Kingston, 11-13 October 1995)
UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.11/7	Report of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean, Region. (French Guiana, 3-5 May 1993)
UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.5/1	Report of the First Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean, Region. (Kingston, Jamaica, 4-8 May 1992)
UNEP, 2004	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper. (English only)

UNEP/Ramsar, 2000	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena, 1983) and the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971) (English only)
UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3, 1988	Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.11/INF.6	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention of 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 (SPA) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Nairobi, 1992)
UNEP, 1991	Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Annexes to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region. Final Act
UNEP, 1990	Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region. Final Act
UNEP, 1983	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)

ANNEX IV: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**ANNEX V: REVISED CRITERIA FOR THE LISTING OF SPECIES IN THE
ANNEXES OF THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

Revised Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol

Article 21 of the SPAW Protocol requires the establishment of common guidelines and criteria, for *inter alia*, the identification and selection of protected species to be listed on Annexes I, II and III of the Protocol. The guidelines and criteria given below are for this purpose and should be applied in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol, in particular the definitions in Article 1 (f) on “endangered species” and (g) “threatened species”.

1. For the purpose of the species proposed for all three annexes, the scientific evaluation of the threatened or endangered status of the proposed species is to be based on the following factors: size of populations, evidence of decline, restrictions on its range of distribution, degree of population fragmentation, biology and behavior of the species, as well as other aspects of population dynamics, other conditions clearly increasing the vulnerability of the species, and the importance of the species to the maintenance of fragile or vulnerable ecosystems and habitats.
2. When evaluation of the factors enumerated above clearly indicates that a species is threatened or endangered, the lack of full scientific certainty about the exact status of the species is not to prevent the listing of the species on the appropriate annex.
3. With particular reference to listing in Annex III, the levels and patterns of use and the success of national management programmes should be taken into account
4. When compiling a case for adding a species to the Annexes, application of the IUCN criteria in a regional (Caribbean) context will be helpful if sufficient data are available. The evaluation should, in any case, use best available information, and expertise, including traditional ecological knowledge.
5. The evaluation of a species is also to be based on whether it is, or is likely to be, the subject of local or international trade, and whether the international trade of the species under consideration is regulated under CITES or other instruments;
6. The evaluation of the desirability of listing a species in one of the annexes should be based on the importance and usefulness of regional cooperative efforts on the protection and recovery of the species;
7. Given the regional, co-operative nature of the SPAW Protocol, it is generally not considered appropriate to include in the lists species which are endemic to a single country, these species being more appropriate for protected status under Article 10 of the Protocol. Any Contracting Party may however, request the inclusion on the lists of a species that is endemic to its territory, if regional cooperation is clearly important for its recovery.
8. The listing of a taxonomic unit covers all the lower taxa within that unit. The lists should be prepared at the level of species; the listing of species is taken to include all sub-species

and as a general rule, sub-species are not recommended for separate listing. Exceptionally, higher taxa can be utilized in listing when there are reasonable indications that the lower taxa are similarly justified in being listed, or to address problems of misidentification caused by species of similar appearance. In the case of Annex III, higher taxa can also be used to simplify the list.

9. When considering species for listing, the status of the population at the regional level should be the starting point for its evaluation. Given the regional, co-operative nature of the SPAW Protocol, as a general rule, sub-populations are not recommended for separate listing unless this would benefit the recovery of the subpopulation and the total population.
10. Although ecosystems are best protected by measures focused on the system as a whole, species essential to the maintenance of such fragile and vulnerable ecosystems/habitats, as mangrove ecosystems, seagrass beds and coral reefs, may be listed if the listing of such species is felt to be an "appropriate measure to ensure the protection and recovery" of such ecosystems/habitats where they occur, according to the terms of Article 11 (1) (c) of the Protocol.

**ANNEX VI: PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF
NOMINATIONS OF SPECIES FOR INCLUSION IN OR
DELETION FROM ANNEXES I, II AND III**

Procedure for the submission and approval of nominations of species for inclusion in or deletion from Annexes I, II and III.

The procedure adopted by the COP includes the following:

- a) Parties intending to nominate a species for inclusion in or deletion from the Annexes are responsible for preparing appropriate and sufficient supporting documentation. However, Parties may request that the SPAW/RAC assist in the preparation of documentation by providing contacts of relevant experts and organizations for advice and technical assistance, as well as by providing access to literature;
- b) Supporting documentation should follow the outline in Article 19 par. 3, together with information demonstrating the applicability of the appropriate SPAW listing criteria as adopted by the Conference of the Parties. It should include an appropriate bibliography. The nominating Party may submit draft documentation for impartial review. The SPAW/RAC may be able to suggest suitable reviewers;
- c) The final text of the supporting documentation must be submitted to the SPAW Secretariat at least four months before the STAC Meeting at which the nomination will be considered, unless the Secretariat sets an alternate deadline;
- d) After the deadline, the Secretariat shall inform the Parties of the list of species to be considered at the forthcoming STAC Meeting. The Secretariat shall, as soon as possible after the deadline, arrange for the translation of the supporting documentation into the official languages of the Protocol. After translation, the supporting documentation shall be circulated to the Contracting Parties according to the protocol established for documents distribution by the Secretariat and should be subsequently publicized through the website;
- e) Written comments on proposed nominations received by the Secretariat from Parties and Observers should be made available to the Meeting of the STAC;
- f) The STAC may, in accordance with Article 11 paragraph 4(b), recommend that the nomination be adopted or rejected, or that further consideration be made conditional on the presentation of additional scientific and technical information;
- g) The Conference of the Parties may assess, as part of its review of the nomination, the extent to which any conditions set by the STAC have been met.