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

Montego Bay, Jamaica 5 October 2010

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA), in the Wider Caribbean Region held in Kingston, 15 to 18 January 1990, adopted the SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 23 of the SPAW Protocol provides for the convening and functioning of the Meetings of the Parties and calls for these ordinary meetings to be held in conjunction with the Ordinary Meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Convention. In light of the above, this Meeting was convened by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 5 October 2010, immediately preceding the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) and the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 to 9 October 2010).
2. The main objectives of this Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the SPAW Protocol were to:
 - Review the current status and activities of the 2008-2009 Workplan and budget for the SPAW regional programme
 - Decide on the 2010-2011 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW regional Programme
 - Review and agree on further action on the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the guidelines and criteria for evaluation of protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol and its pilot project
 - Review the activities of the Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for SPAW, in Guadeloupe; and
 - Review the activities of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region.
3. The fourteen Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol nominated their respective representatives to participate in the Meeting. Representatives of governments that are non-Contracting Parties and of international, regional, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organizations, were also invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. The List of Participants appears as **Annex I** to this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Meeting was opened by the Secretariat on Tuesday, 5 October 2010, at 9:20 a.m. at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Jamaica.
5. The Secretariat welcomed all delegates and observers, particularly the SPAW partners on this, the International Year of Biodiversity.
6. The Secretariat recognised the participant from the Government of Guyana and welcomed him as a new contracting Party, having just ratified the Cartagena Convention and all three of its Protocols.

7. In his opening speech, Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) mentioned the CEP's commitment to education and awareness reflected also in the discussion on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services being organized during the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM). He noted that even though people are increasingly aware of the environmental issues that are currently faced, the actions that are being taken are often not decisive enough and that there are too many priorities with not enough resources to address the issues. Mr. Andrade mentioned that the SPAW Workplan reflects some of these realities though progress continues to be made.
8. Mr. Andrade reminded participants that they needed to be cognizant of the fact that we are all responsible for biodiversity conservation and we need to continue to work on this topic in order to sustain and benefit future generations. Mr. Andrade hoped that the COP6 Meeting would allow for the development of real attainable priorities and take decisive and realistic actions.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

(a) Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council for UNEP (UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3) were applied *mutatis mutandis*, for the conduct of the Meeting.

(b) Election of Officers

The Secretariat received a proposal to elect the following participants as the members of the Bureau for the Meeting of the Contracting Parties:

Chairperson:	Ms. Beverly Wade	(Belize)
Vice-Chairperson:	Ms. Ydalia Acevedo	(Dominican Republic)
Rapporteur:	Darrylin van der Veen	(Netherlands Antilles)

(c) Organisation of Work

9. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in the languages was provided during the Meeting and the Working Documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages. The List of Documents appears as **Annex II** to this Report.
10. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions and working groups were not required.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11. The Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting prepared by the Secretariat. The Provisional Agenda appears as **Annex III** to this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPAW PROGRAMME WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM, INCLUDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW RAC) IN GUADELOUPE

12. The Secretariat presented the status of the Implementation of the SPAW Programme Workplan and Budget for the 2008-2009 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.3) and noted that additional supplemental reports had also been made available on the activities of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW RAC) and the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Manager's Network and Forum (CaMPAM) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.7 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.5 respectively). The Secretariat also recognized Helene Souan, the SPAW RAC's new Director. A brief presentation was made that summarized the work detailed in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.3. The Secretariat highlighted the progress made with the pilot project on the listing of protected areas, the activities in support of marine protected areas and the implementation of the Marine Mammal Action Plan, all of which will be reported under subsequent agenda items.
13. The French delegation acknowledged the work of the Secretariat and stated that the SPAW RAC's role in implementation and delivery continues to be strengthened. They stated that the arrival of a new RAC director and the strengthening of the RAC staff should allow the Centre to implement more projects under the SPAW Protocol and that they would like to see the Secretariat continue to coordinate closely with the SPAW RAC's activities. They also called on the other Parties in attendance to commit resources towards the implementation of SPAW Workplan activities to ensure that the SPAW RAC's work, such as the establishment of Working Groups, is based on regional commitments with all the Parties involved.
14. The United States delegation commended the Secretariat for focusing on the implementation of on-the-ground activities particularly in both protocol and non-protocol States. They also commended the Secretariat's efforts to collaborate with other organisations such as the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST). The delegation was also pleased with the regional workshops that occurred, particularly those on marine mammal strandings, sea turtle conservation in collaboration with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and the lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) invasion.
15. The Barbados delegate recognized the importance of the RAC's work and France's continued support. They commended the Secretariat on the work started on Invasive Alien Species throughout the region since these species can have deleterious effects on the conservation of endangered species.

16. The Colombian delegate reported that her country had made progress on two activities spearheaded through the SPAW Workplan: 1) A National Plan for the Control and Management of the Lionfish and 2) A Training of Trainers MPA national workshop that involved representatives from various national institutions. They stressed that the ongoing work of the Secretariat was helping Colombia generate national capacity.
17. The French delegation requested that for future reporting on the Workplan's budgets the different SPAW areas of work should be broken out with more detailed information. The Secretariat took note of France's comments and agreed to continue to work on improving the budgeting format.
18. The Observer from Defenders of Wildlife suggested that the Secretariat partner with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Invasive Species Working Group when working on the invasive species projects within the region.
19. The Observer from Humane Society International requested clarification on in the delay of the Working Group to assess exemptions under Article 11 paragraph 2 of the Protocol due to a lack of time and resources. They requested information on what needed to be done in order to establish the required Working Group. The Secretariat responded that resources were not available to coordinate this Working Group and priority had been given by COP5 to the Working Group on the Listing of Protected Areas.
20. The Observer from Environmental Support Services commended the Secretariat on the work done and suggested additional consultations with other organizations such as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and IUCN in order to help compile information on the MPA database. The Secretariat responded that they were indeed in consultation with these and other institutions although with respect to the SPAW species database a lot more work is required and collaborations with other relevant organizations was being sought.

AGENDA ITEM 5: GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF PROTECTED AREAS TO BE LISTED UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL - UPDATE ON THE PILOT PROJECT

21. The Secretariat invited the Director of the SPAW RAC and Coordinator of the Working Group for the Guidelines for Protected Areas, to make a brief presentation on the document "Report of the Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol – includes report on the pilot project" as outlined in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/3.
22. The presentation detailed the outcomes of the pilot project, which began in September 2009. The objective of the pilot project as mandated by COP5 was to test and revise as appropriate the annotated reporting format for the listing of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol. Nine protected areas from across the region were selected to participate in the pilot project and submitted reports in the annotated format, as well as comments on the format itself. A revised format was then prepared by a dedicated sub-group and

- approved by the whole Working Group. The Secretariat recommended that the 9 protected areas involved in the pilot project be listed under the SPAW Protocol as they met all the criteria necessary for listing.
23. The delegate from the Netherlands Antilles thanked all of the participants in the project, particularly the SPAW RAC, the Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas and the protected area managers who were involved in the project. The delegate supported the recommendations made and the revised format. However, he stated that the information contained in the old reporting format should still be included in the database being developed because the information was still valid. They also agreed that the protected areas used in the pilot project should be included as the first nine protected areas listed under SPAW.
 24. The Cuban delegate joined other delegations in congratulating the Secretariat on the work done and stated that it showed that complex tasks could be accomplished with increased capacity. He reiterated the need to implement all the tasks associated with the Protocol and requested more information on the additional costs associated with the Project. The Secretariat stated that the expenditures associated with the project were met by SPAW RAC and were part of their contributions to the Programme. The SPAW RAC also stated that the project's financial costs were associated with the development of the database and the additional costs were in human resources and time spent on the project, first to establish the Working Group and then to coordinate it and provide inputs and proposals. They thanked everyone who worked on the project.
 25. The delegate from Venezuela supported the new protected areas list and expressed their intention to submit 3 new areas from Venezuela for listing under SPAW, as soon as possible.
 26. The Colombian delegate requested clarification regarding the 9 protected areas used in the pilot project be listed under SPAW at the COP6 Meeting. The Secretariat responded that the decision taken at COP5 was to approve the protected areas listing through the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). However, since no STAC meeting was held this year the Secretariat was proposing to approve the protected areas now rather than wait for the next STAC meeting. The Colombian delegate requested more time to consult at the national level before their final decision on the proposed areas for listing is made.
 27. The delegate from the Netherlands Antilles requested that their protected areas be listed at the COP6 given the upcoming change of political status of this country within a few days which will require the listing process in the Netherlands to start again.
 28. The delegate from Cuba noted that the proposed lists required the review of the STAC prior to approval by the COP and therefore the decision to approve the proposed listing of these areas at COP6 would have to be exceptional.
 29. The Meeting agreed that substantial progress had been made with the listing process and that it was important not to lose momentum while recognizing the need of a number of

Parties to have additional consultations before their final nominations for listings are made. In this context the Meeting agreed to adopt a “flexible formula”, on an exceptional basis, to allow additional time for internal consultations with a view to have the nine Parties submit within a specific time frame to the Secretariat their final pilot protected areas and considered these as provisionally approved until their final assessment by the next STAC. The delegates of France and Netherlands Antilles reiterated that their countries did not require the additional consultation and were submitting their pilot protected areas as final at COP6. The Meeting adopted the revised annotated format and agreed on the follow-up actions as reflected in Decisions 2 to 6 contained in Annex IV of the Report.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION – MAJOR ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

30. The Secretariat invited the Director of SPAW RAC to make a brief presentation on the document “Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.4) and mentioned additional reference documents such as the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP, 2008). The presentation outlined the progress made during the 2008-2009 biennium on the actions prioritized during the COP5 meeting.
31. The actions prioritized during the COP5 meeting included the updating and expansion of the electronic Marine Mammals Expert Group, the organization of three workshops on marine mammal strandings, the development of a workshop on marine mammal watching in the wild and associated best practices, the planning of a workshop on pollutants and other contaminants and their effects on marine mammal health and the harmonization of reports regarding the incidental and targeted captures of marine mammals associated with fishing practices. The two latter activities were delayed due to lack of funding. The SPAW RAC recommended that there be a renewal of the priorities that had not been implemented during the 2008-2009 biennium, continued follow-up on the stranding workshops, the development and implementation of the LifeWeb proposal, implementation of the first set of activities under the Regional Management Plan for the Manatee and in general continued support for the implementation of the MMAP.
32. The United States delegation joined other delegates in thanking the Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for all the work done to implement this project. They reiterated that the activities outlined in the Action Plan should be explored thoroughly before the next set of activities are begun. They clarified that 4 stranding workshops had been completed to date, including the workshop conducted in Trinidad in 2005 and thanked the government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that helped conduct/facilitate these stranding workshops.
33. The delegate from Venezuela stated that most of the work currently done in Venezuela, with respect to marine mammals, involved environmental awareness particularly with

- respect to the Biodiversity Act that had recently been passed. The delegate also stated that they were currently compiling a list of marine mammal publications and had approximately 175 scientific publications on the marine mammals found in Venezuelan waters.
34. The delegate from Colombia stated that they were currently working on a national marine mammal action plan and that following their marine mammal stranding workshop they would develop national protocols for their Caribbean and Pacific regions.
 35. The French delegation announced the creation of the Agoa marine mammal sanctuary in the French Antilles. Now that the sanctuary has been established, an Ad Hoc committee will follow-up on the current steering committee and allow for consultations with local authorities and stakeholders including fishers, scientists and NGO representatives to develop operational proposals in order to draft a management plan and take appropriate measures. France announced that they will be submitting the area for inclusion under the SPAW Protocol. They invited other Parties to take similar actions and declare marine mammal protected areas within their jurisdictional waters.
 36. The Netherlands Antilles delegation joined other delegates and observers in congratulating France on their Agoa initiative and indicated that they were interested in joining France with a similar initiative. The delegate stated they are currently working on a management plan within their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which would include the designation of waters within the EEZ of the Kingdom of the Netherlands as a marine mammal protected area and hoped to work closely with France on this venture.
 37. The French delegation provided a brief summary on their manatee re-introduction project in the Guadeloupe National Park. They stated that the project is slated to take place over 8 years and is currently in the 3 year preparatory phase which includes the conducting of scientific studies on water quality, sea grass beds and stakeholder use at the local level and studies on distribution and abundance of possible source populations of manatees at the regional level. They are also working on education and awareness projects within schools. The project will determine suitable habitat areas for the animals and a 5 year monitoring phase will follow allowing for their successful re-introduction.
 38. The United States delegation requested additional information on the project, specifically if a feasibility study was going to be conducted and from where they were planning on obtaining the animals. They also requested information on the initial size of the population; what pre-release conditioning, if any, would occur; the absence of nuclear genetic studies for stock identity; boat traffic in the area, measures of success for the project; and data on the historical distribution of manatees in the proposed area. The French delegation stated that they had conducted scientific studies and were willing to provide the United States delegation with copies. They added that they were currently collaborating with Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Guadeloupe National Park and acknowledged that while boat collisions were an important issue a study done in Guadeloupe had indicated that boat traffic levels were much lower than in Florida and concluded that boat traffic would not be a major problem. They estimated that the base population, based on a feasibility study would be 15 animals and they planned on

conducting genetic studies next year. They stated that they were considering obtaining animals from Cuba and French Guiana but were still studying various options and in the process of contacting countries.

39. The Observer from Mote Marine Laboratory / former Chairman of the US Marine Mammal Commission stated that it had been a privilege to have been involved in the development and implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Manatees and the MMAP. He thanked the Secretariat and the SPAW RAC for all the work that had been done and mentioned that the Marine Mammal Commission had helped fund past activities and would hopefully continue to provide needed support. One of the activities the Commission had helped fund was the development of an active and credible expert working group to guide and facilitate the implementation of the MMAP. The Observer stated that though the Commission was now under new leadership and re-examining its responsibilities and direction, he was confident that the Commission would seriously consider proposals that would support future activities. He personally supported the proposed recommendations regarding future activities under the MMAP and offered to suggest ways to move forward on the unimplemented priorities such as the contaminants workshop and the bycatch assessment, as well as activities within the manatee action plan. He further stated that manatees are found in 20 countries within the Wider Caribbean Regions and the populations within half of those countries could disappear within 10-20 years. While he acknowledged that some experts are cautious about the re-introduction project others viewed it as an opportunity for conservation. He reiterated that while conservation may be informed by science, conservation efforts can also be retarded while waiting for scientific data. He gave the example of the baiji (*Lipotes vexillifer*) and the monitoring that took place, while no conservation efforts were properly enacted and the species is now extinct.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2010-2011 BIENNIUM

40. The Meeting was informed that Programme Coordination will continue to be carried out by the SPAW staff, which currently includes a Programme Officer and a Bilingual Secretary (Assistant), based at the RCU in Kingston, and with the assistance of the SPAW RAC staff in Guadeloupe. The Secretariat noted that there is now a SPAW newsletter and requested that the Parties provide feedback, through the list serve. It was recognized that since the entry into force of the Protocol in 2000, the demands on the Secretariat have grown continuously, including fund-raising. Strategic alliances will be maintained and new ones fostered through coordination with relevant organizations and collaborative arrangements with existing and emerging initiatives.
41. Activities relating to the “Strengthening of Protected Areas” include invigorating the CaMPAM Network and Forum through additional partnerships namely with GCFI and US/NOAA, and the Caribbean Challenge with the generous funding contribution from the Government of Italy. Support includes annual meetings for MPA managers at GCFI; small grants for MPAs focusing on better practices; the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on MPA management and subsequent local training courses; updating the MPA database; as well as relevant coordination linkages with the Caribbean Challenge

- initiative, and the Western Hemispheric Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI). CaMPAM has evolved from its original concept as a forum for discussion and information exchange. It is now an active region-wide network with many initiatives, particularly through the small grants for MPA programme.
42. A ToT regional course for the Spanish speaking countries was held in the Dominican Republic in June 2010 with funding secured from Spain in the previous biennium. Regional meetings, including a training course are planned in 2011 under the Caribbean Challenge initiative which is aimed at specific MPA needs of the countries associated to date with this initiative.
 43. The Caribbean Challenge initiative (CCI) activities have a wide geographic scope (Wider Caribbean area) with an emphasis on countries associated to CCI and with MPA projects supported by GEF. It was noted that the Caribbean had joined other regions around the world to protect 20% of the region's marine resources by 2012. As a result there is an initiative by TNC and other partners, with funding support by the GEF, to provide a trust fund for countries committed to the CCI.
 44. Developing criteria for assessment of exemptions under Article 11(2) will be prioritised (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5). Informal consultations with experts and coordination with relevant initiatives (e.g. IUCN Caribbean Red List Project) will be considered as soon as feasible to initiate the possible listing of species not yet included in the Annexes to the Protocol (see UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.31/INF.6, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.7 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.5).
 45. The CaMPAM Leadership and Resource Team (CLRT) has approximately 20 experts in various fields providing support. CLRT assists with capacity building and protected areas management. Meetings are held annually to conduct special sessions on MPA issues and facilitate exchanges with planners, fishers and scientists for the implementation of better practices. The Secretariat is seeking to assist CaMPAM in developing a mentorship programme and using an established MPA as a tool for disseminating best practices on a long-term basis through the application of other partners and experts. Additionally, the Secretariat will assist CaMPAM with conflict resolution, community awareness and the development of regulation issues.
 46. Under the component "Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species", major emphasis will be placed on the implementation of the MMAP. Additionally, support and promotion of various activities will continue including the development of new Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs), the development of Index Monitoring Sites for hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the implementation of the recovery action plan proposals through the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST). Work will continue, in collaboration with SCSCB and Birdlife, on migratory birds and the protection of their habitats and with CABI on invasive alien species management in the Insular Caribbean. A meeting was held earlier this year in Cancun, Mexico to start developing a regional strategy for controlling lionfish.

47. The implementation of activities regarding the development of whale-watching and the adoption of good practices will be conducted with funding provided in 2009 by the US Marine Mammal Commission. The SPAW RAC will provide some funding in 2010 and 2011 to support various activities related to the MMAP, particularly the implementation of the manatee management action plan and whale watching activities. Additionally, funding from Spain under the LifeWeb project will allow for the implementation of spatial planning activities related to marine mammal conservation, with a focus on the ecosystem approach and migration corridors.
48. Within the component “Conservation of Major Ecosystems”, the Secretariat is participating in the implementation of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem GEF project, with UNDP and the IOC/IOCARIBE of UNESCO, taking the lead in the pilot project for reef biodiversity. The project will pay particular attention to the strengthening of management frameworks for large marine areas following the multisectoral and ecosystem approach, and enforcing stakeholder participation. Pilot activities are planned for Colombia, the Dominican Republic/Haiti, and Jamaica. The Secretariat will also continue to serve as the regional focal point for ICRI and will support and promote coral reef management, including monitoring, during the biennium.
49. The Secretariat presented a budget, as an addendum to the Workplan, for activities to be developed for 2012. The addendum was proposed to address the elements in the budget that were carried over from the previous Workplan. With regard to the SPAW meetings Parties that were in arrears to the Caribbean Trust Fund were encouraged to host meetings, as seconded at previous COPs. It was highlighted that no STAC meeting was scheduled for 2011 due to funding limitations.
50. The delegate from Barbados joined with other delegates and observers to extend their approval, in principle, of the addendum, and request additional time to confer with their respective governments. They supported the removal of the sustainable tourism section because they felt there was a need to complete work on areas already started. The delegate identified the need to ensure that the STAC meeting was budgeted for so the Secretariat would not have to rely on the goodwill of the Contracting Parties.
51. The delegate from the USA requested clarification on how the proposed budget intended to get the Secretariat back on track since there was no IGM scheduled for 2013. Regarding the 2010-2011 activities the delegate requested clarification on how the information gained from the CaMPAM and PA listing databases would be synergistic since the databases were not identical. In addition, they identified the work done on Article 11(2) i.e. exemptions to species protection measures, as a priority issue, and commended the Secretariat on the work done with WIDECAS, welcoming further collaborations with respect to sea turtle conservation. They also recommended that the Secretariat continue to develop collaborations with key stakeholders to identify additional repositories of information on the lionfish.

52. The delegate from Cuba informed the COP that there were species listed in the SPAW annexes that should not have been included. A suggestion was made by the delegate to reactivate the working groups on the listing of species. The delegate also recommended that the Annex be updated by conducting a comparative study with other lists on a case by case process, with a mandate given to the working group to provide a report by the next STAC meeting.
53. The delegate from France identified the need to strengthen the Secretariat's coordination with other international conventions on biodiversity. The delegate requested that the SPAW RAC publicize links to all relevant regional projects on their website and include links to other relevant initiatives so that project implementation could be monitored. The delegate was pleased with the budget but recommended some modifications to show France's 2010 contributions to the SPAW RAC activities.
54. The delegate from Colombia identified activities that had been carried over from the previous biennium that had yet to be implemented. The delegate recommended no new activities be proposed until pending activities were completed.
55. The delegate from the USA expressed reluctance in seeing another paper exercise developed to review individual species for listing. The delegate recommended that all Parties take note of the language of the SPAW Protocol which states that any Party may nominate species for addition/ deletion and then submit them to the STAC. It was suggested by the delegate that potential Working Groups should bring forward specific species instead of reviewing whole lists so as not to create a burdensome exercise while still allowing for revisions. The Cuban delegate responded that it would be an impossible task to conduct the exercise suggested by the USA delegate in a fair manner, especially in light of the difficulties faced while forming the previous Working Group. The delegate recommended a review of the species that did not meet the requirements, particularly the endemic species.
56. The delegate from the Netherlands Antilles identified the need to revisit the criteria necessary for exemption of species since their level of understanding of the guidelines and criteria for listing and managing listed species was one of the reasons some countries were not party to the SPAW Protocol. With regard to the listing of species, the delegate suggested the STAC meeting preceeding the COP examine species that are not listed but should be. In regards to species that should not be on the list, the delegate disagreed with the delegate from Cuba on the need for a Working Group. He proposed that individual countries identify endemic species that should be delisted and present them at the next STAC meeting. The delegate further identified the need to have experts available to address the requirements for listing or delisting a species. He recommended a pilot project approach be taken to address the need for listing or delisting specific groups of animals such as certain fish species with the assistance of experts. The delegate also recommended the Secretariat collaborate with the IUCN.

57. The delegate from the Dominican Republic suggested that they might be able to host the next SPAW STAC meeting.
58. The Observer from Humane Society International identified the natural migration of invasive alien species as a significant problem. They recommended greater collaborations between SPAW and the CITES Convention in addressing alien invasive species threats. He outlined the direction of the new CITES Secretary General with regards to these issues and his stated interest in forming collaborations with other interest groups by using the CBD for the implementation of national strategies. The Observer stated his support of the views put forward by the delegate from the Netherlands Antilles and suggested that priority be placed on addressing Article 11(2). He suggested that the listing or delisting of species should be left to individual Parties.
59. The Observer from the Animal Welfare Institute outlined their concerns with the manatee introduction programme for Guadeloupe. Their concerns were centered around the transport and capture of the animals and the sensitization process for the local human population in Guadeloupe. The Observer expressed uncertainty about the process that will be applied when assessing exemptions for animals coming from SPAW Parties.
60. The Secretariat apologized for the late availability of documents which was caused by several extenuating circumstances, such as the closure of the secretariat in May by the UN Secretary General due to security concerns in Jamaica. The Secretariat also acknowledged the Parties' need for additional consultation with their governments on the proposed addendum to the budget. A commitment was given by the Secretariat to ensure the process would get back on track by the end of 2012, and also thanked the delegate from Dominican Republic for their proposal to host the next meeting.
61. The Secretariat thanked the delegates and observers for their comments and inputs and informed them they would be incorporated into the revision of the workplan and budget. The Secretariat recognized that activities outlined for MMAP were ambitious but reiterated that there was no plan to try and accomplish all the tasks at once. Instead, the Secretariat would be identifying the previously approved priorities in the five year plan to implement activities that could be met based on the financial and human resources available. The Parties were informed that capacity building on marine mammal strandings would continue. The Secretariat also informed the delegates from USA that they were fully cognizant of the compatibility with the two databases and that some preliminary assessments had been concluded.
62. The delegate from Cuba suggested that a section of the budget be developed to show the coordination of the working groups including any additional hiring deemed necessary.
63. The Meeting approved the revised Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2010-2011 biennium, with the modifications and priorities reflected therein, and requested that it be submitted to the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties for final adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

64. The French delegation reminded the Parties that the 2nd International Conference for Marine Mammal Protected Areas would be held in Martinique in November 2011. They stated that the programme would be submitted to all the delegates and would be uploaded to all relevant web sites.
65. The delegate from the Netherlands Antilles stated that Saba Bank had been declared a protected area and the designation included prohibiting the anchoring of super tankers in Saba Bank and the Netherland Antilles' EEZ. He stated that this was the first step towards protecting Saba Bank's biodiversity. The Netherlands have proposed that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) designate Saba Bank as a sensitive sea area and this could provide additional instruments for its protection. While this may take another 2 years they are confident that they will receive a positive response from the IMO. As the last action of the Netherlands Antilles, Saba Bank is now the 5th largest protected area in the Caribbean.
66. The Netherlands Antilles delegate also stated that as of 10 October 2010 the Netherlands Antilles would no longer exist with Curaçao and St. Maarten becoming more independent and Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius returning under the full jurisdiction of the Netherlands. The Kingdom of the Netherlands will still remain a Party to SPAW but the internal representation at SPAW meetings may change. The Secretariat should inform all jurisdictions separately and new focal points must be identified.
67. The United States delegation announced the potential for project funding under the NOAA Coral Programme. They stated that the application deadline was 8 November 2010 and that the funds were designated to support capacity building and a network of MPAs.
68. The delegate from Venezuela announced a ban on drag net fishing in order to improve coral reef recovery and biodiversity.
69. The delegate from Guyana, as the newest member to the Convention, wished to thank the Secretariat. They stated that they were happy to be involved and expected to benefit from the lessons learned at previous meetings. They stated that for the past year discussions have been had with regards to the designation of a coastal protected area which would be the first of its kind. A national low carbon strategy is also being formulated and approximately 75% of Guyana's forest cover would be included in the agreement in order to maintain and conserve biodiversity. They added that natural synergies exist between the work currently being done in Guyana and the SPAW Protocol and looked forward to realizing the objectives of the SPAW Protocol.
70. The French Delegation informed the Parties that Guadeloupe was collaborating with St. Maarten and the Netherlands Antilles on projects designed to preserve protected species. They asked the Secretariat for information on turtles and sharks in the Caribbean, topics which were discussed at the 2008-2009 biennium meeting.

71. The Observer from Humane Society International thanked the delegate from the Netherlands Antilles for all the work done on behalf of SPAW and wished him and the Netherlands Antilles all the best for the future. The Observer also reminded the Parties that the last STAC meeting examined information on the spawning aggregations of some fish species. They suggested that the RAC work on compiling information on spawning aggregates throughout the region to increase the amount of information available on this topic.
72. The Observer from Defenders of Wildlife congratulated the Parties on the preparation of the documents and encouraged them to more aggressively incorporate the impacts of climate change and the actions on marine mammals in draft working documents.
73. The delegate from the Netherlands Antilles applauded the Secretariat's decision to host a panel discussion on the value of biodiversity at the Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM).

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

74. The Rapporteur presented the draft Decisions of the Meeting, which the participants reviewed and adopted, as reflected in **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

75. The Meeting was closed on Tuesday, 5 October 2010, at 8.30 p.m., by the Secretariat who thanked the delegates and the interpreters for their participation. The Secretariat highlighted the changes and the work that had been accomplished by the SPAW RAC in Guadeloupe and the Government of France. However, the Secretariat acknowledged that financial resources are limited through they continue to look for additional collaborations. They thanked the members of the head table and the delegate from the Dominican Republic for their offer to possibly hold the next SPAW STAC meeting.

ANNEX I – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES (COP) TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPA) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION, 5TH OCTOBER 2010

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ANNEX II – LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Annex II – List of Documents

Working Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/3	Report of the Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol (<i>includes report on the pilot project</i>)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/4	Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2010-2011 Biennium
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/5	Decisions of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (<i>to be prepared during the Meeting</i>)

Information Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.3	Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.4	Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.5	Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.6	Directory of Members of the SPAW Protocol Listserve (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.7	Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW RAC) in Guadeloupe with regard to RAC operations for the period 2008-2009
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.8	Database Specifications for Protected Areas in the Caribbean to be Listed Under SPAW
CEP Technical Report 48	Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee - (English and Spanish)
UNEP, 2008	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/4.Rev.1	Revised Draft Annotated Format for Presentation Reports for the Areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAW List
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5	Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.27/6 Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region (St John's, Antigua & Barbuda, 8 September 2008)

Note: Additional documents to be added on the International Year of Biodiversity

Reference Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.4 Guidelines to Prevent Species from becoming Endangered or Threatened (English only)

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/3 Annex V/Rev.1 Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed Under the SPAW Protocol

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/6 Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2-5 July 2008)

UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3, 1988 Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP

UNEP, 1991 Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Annexes to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region

UNEP, 1990 Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region

UNEP, 1983 Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)

Conference Room Papers

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/CRP.1 Proposed Extension of SPAW Programme Workplan and Budget for 2012

ANNEX III – AGENDA

ANNEX III

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
 - a. Rules of Procedure
 - b. Election of Officers
 - c. Organisation of Work
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Implementation of the SPAW Programme Workplan and Budget for the 2008-2009 Biennium, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) in Guadeloupe
5. Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol – Update on the Pilot Project
6. Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region – Major Activities Implemented
7. Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2010-2011 Biennium
8. Other Business
9. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
10. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX IV – DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

ANNEX IV

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Contracting Parties:

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

Taking note of the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPA Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.3 and supporting document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.5);

Taking note of the Report on the Activities of the Regional Activity Center for SPA (SPA RAC) in Guadeloupe for the period 2008-2009 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.7)

Having reviewed the Report of the Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPA Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/3), including the revised Annotated Format contained in Annex I of the Report;

Recognizing the effort of the Protected Areas Working Group to develop a reporting format for the submission of proposed protected areas to be listed under the Protocol;

Affirming that the Guidelines and Criteria for the evaluation of protected areas provide for the assessment of protected areas for listing by the STAC;

Recognizing the extraordinary situation of a SPA STAC not being held in advance of COP6 and **noting** the importance of making progress in establishing protected areas and networks;

Having reviewed the Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.4);

Considering that the SPA COP3, Montego Bay, Jamaica of the Protocol adopted the criteria for the listing of species in the Annexes.

Having reviewed the Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPA Regional Programme for the 2010-2011 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/4); and

Taking note of the UN designation of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity

Decide to

- Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the SPA Protocol.
- Adopt** the revised Annotated Format as contained in Annex I of the report Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for the listing of protected areas (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/3).
- Provide** Parties 60 days to formally nominate their pilot protected area.

4. **Provisionally approve** the listing of formally nominated pilot protected areas pending the assessment by the Fifth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (STAC) and **stress** that this procedure does not set precedent for future review of protected area submissions.
5. **Urge** additional Contracting Parties to submit their proposed protected areas to be listed to the Fifth STAC Meeting for their assessment.
6. **Extend** the mandate of the Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for Protected Areas Listing under SPAW and **request** the Group to continue its work under the leadership of the SPAW RAC, with a view to develop the database and continue the process of listing additional protected areas.
7. **Acknowledge** the progress made with the implementation of the MMAP and **request** that the Secretariat, in collaboration with the SPAW RAC continue to fundraise and develop strategic partnerships for its further implementation, in particular the development of the proposal to Life Web on marine corridors and marine mammal conservation for the Wider Caribbean, and the implementation of key priorities of the Manatee Regional Management Plan
8. **Acknowledge** the establishment by France of a sanctuary for Marine mammals, named Agoa, in the waters of the French Antilles, as a contribution to the implementation of the Marine mammals Action Plan, and congratulate the government of France for this initiative.
9. **Re-establish** the Working Group in charge of the Review of the Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol and to **request** the Group to:
 - a. As a first step, seek the input from the Parties on the species to be reviewed.
 - b. Secondly, identify any species receiving protection from any other International Agreements and internationally recognized lists that are not listed on the SPAW Annexes.
 - c. Select from the species resulting from points a and b and any other species that the Working Group feels need attention a species “short-list” to be reviewed by the working group according to the criteria approved by COP3.
10. **Request** the above-mentioned Working Group to present a report on progress achieved to the Fifth SPAW STAC meeting and **request** that the Secretariat, together with SPAW RAC, coordinates and supports the work of the Group.
11. **Endorse** for final approval by the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting parties, the revised Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2010-2011 Biennium, with modifications and priorities introduced by the Meeting, and **note** that the SPAW Programme of work should give priority to Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol, taking into consideration regional conservation needs, as well as donor partnerships that may, on occasion, necessitate the participation of non-Parties.
12. **Prioritize** in the 2010-2011 Workplan the establishment of a Working Group to develop the draft criteria for the assessment of exemptions regarding Article 11 paragraph 2, and to this end

establish a Working Group under the leadership of SPAW RAC to begin its work as soon as feasible.

13. **Acknowledge** the Secretariat's initiative to collaborate with Governments and partners in the development of a strategy for managing the lionfish invasion and **request** the Secretariat to incorporate this activity within the SPAW Programme for 2010-2011 as agreed by the Meeting.
14. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the secretariat to join and participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties.
15. **Welcome** the Secretariat's initiative of convening a Panel on Biodiversity at the 14th IGM addressing priority issues such as sustainable fisheries, coral reef conservation, and sustainable tourism and **encourage** governments to actively promote and initiate programmes aimed at conserving the region's biodiversity.
16. **Endorse** in principle the proposed extension of SPAW work plan and budget for 2012 and **further decide** that it be forwarded to the 14th IGM for final approval.
17. **Welcome** the offer of the Government of the Dominican Republic to tentatively host the Fifth SPAW STAC meeting and **request** the Secretariat to further explore this offer.