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

Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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Acronyms

CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum
CAR/RCU	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems
COP	Conference of Parties
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
ECCN	Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GISP	Global Invasive Species Programme
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MMAP	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OECS-ESDU	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States -Environment and Sustainable Development Unit
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SBNMS	Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
SIDS-POA	Small Islands Developing States-Programme of Action
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-DEPI	UNEP-Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
UNEP-DTIE	UNEP-Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) 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 (UNEP-CEP), in Cartagena, Colombia on 9 December 2014, preceding the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean, Cartagena, Colombia, 11-13 December, 2014.
2. Decision No. 1 of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) (COP1) (Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001) and Decisions of the Seventh COP, also provided the mandate for the convening of this Meeting.
3. The main objectives of this Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP8) to the SPAW Protocol were to:
 - **Review** and **adopt** the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC6) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December 2014;
 - **Review** and **approve** the 2015-2016 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for subsequent approval by the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;
 - **Review** and **approve** the reports on protected areas presented by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol;
 - **Review** and **adopt** the SPAW STAC6 recommendations on the species proposed for listing under the SPAW Protocol; and
 - **Review** and **adopt** the SPAW STAC6 recommendations on the guidelines for exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol.
4. The Sixteen (16) Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol were invited to the Meeting to nominate their respective representatives to be part of the SPAW STAC6 in keeping with Article 20 of the Protocol. Representatives of governments that were non-Contracting Parties and of international, regional, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, were also invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. The Provisional List of Participants was presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/INF.2 and is included in Annex IV to this report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The Meeting was opened by the Secretariat on Tuesday, 9 December 2014, at 9:00a.m., in Cartagena, Colombia.
6. Opening remarks were provided by Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme. He welcomed all in attendance and stated that he was pleased to announce that the results of the Scientific Technical and Advisory Committee Meeting (STAC6) of the previous day would be shared. It was noted that the Meeting had been able to obtain wide participation which involved a spirit of cooperation and a remarkable sense of professionalism amongst Contracting Parties and NGOs towards the development of the Protocol in the next biennium.
7. He highlighted that the Secretariat was expecting to move forward with the work programme, and following a review of the Agenda, the afternoon session would focus on approval of the recommendations of the STAC which would be presented to the COP. He therefore requested the political and financial support of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol to enable these activities in an effective manner.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

8. The Rules of Procedure for the meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) (UNEP, 2012) were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, for the conduct of the Meeting.

2.2 Election of Officers

9. The Meeting elected from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties to SPAW, the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur for the conduct of the Meeting:

Chairperson: Kim Downes-Agard (Barbados)

Vice-Chairperson: Elizabeth Inés Taylor Jay (Colombia)

Rapporteur: Viki Limaye (U.S.A)

2.3 Organisation of Work

10. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting and simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided. The working documents were also available in all the working languages. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting was presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/INF.1 and as Annex II to this report.
11. The Chair reminded participants of the main objectives of the meeting which were to review the Workplan and Budget for 2015 - 2016, to review and approve the recommendations of the STAC6, and to review those guidelines under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol.
12. Prior to the adoption of the agenda, Ms. Jacqueline Alder, Coordinator of the Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch (FMEB), Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), conveyed

greetings on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director of the DEPI, and highlighted that the outputs of this COP8 would support the goals of the First UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme held in June 2014.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

13. The Meeting was invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting, prepared by the Secretariat based on inputs received from the Contracting Parties during preparations for the Meeting, on relevant recommendations and decisions from previous STAC and COP Meetings of the SPAW Protocol, as well as on emerging issues of relevance to the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean. The Provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat was presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/1. The Agenda as approved by the Meeting is contained in Annex I of this document.

AGENDA ITEM 4: STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR 2013-2014, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW-RAC) IN GUADELOUPE

14. The Chairperson invited Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury of the Secretariat to present “Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2013-2014” (UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.36/INF.3) drawing attention to the following documents on major activities of SPAW:
- Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe with regard to RAC operations and budget for the period 2013-2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.4);
 - Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities, including the major outcomes of the Caribbean Challenge Project and the ongoing Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.5);
 - Update on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MAMP) including the Government of Spain-UNEP project “Protecting Habitats and Migration Corridors for Marine Mammals in the South and Northeast Pacific and the Wider Caribbean through Marine Protected Area Networks” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.6);
 - Update on the GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and the outcomes of the CLME Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project: Summary Report, Best Practices and Lessons Learnt (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.7);
 - Report on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/3);
 - Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol (*includes shortlist of species proposed for listing into the Annexes*) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/4); and
 - Report of the Working Group to Develop the Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol (*includes draft guidance document*) UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/5.
15. The Meeting was informed that they would be invited to provide any comments on the activities implemented during 2013-2014 and make the necessary recommendations.

16. No remarks were put forward.

AGENDA ITEM 5: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2015-2016 BIENNIUM

17. Ms. Vanzella-Khouri presented the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2015-2016 Biennium” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.36/6), prepared by the Secretariat and developed following Decisions of previous COP Meetings, to address relevant and emerging global and regional biodiversity issues and initiatives, and to continue the development of strategic alliances.
18. In her presentation, Ms. Vanzella-Khouri recalled the objectives of the SPAW Subprogramme, including its Coordination component and each subprogramme element of SPAW. She highlighted continued work and support in areas such as the application of EBM principles (in line with Caribbean Biodiversity EBM Project), the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) under the CLME+ project, the Coral Reef Partnership with other Regional Seas Programmes, and the reactivation of linkages with the tourism private sector (e.g. cruise ship industry) in close cooperation with SPAW-RAC.
19. The main coordination will continue to be provided by the Programme Officer along with an Assistant with support from the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. The Secretariat will also continue to seek support through cost-effective means such as the use of interns. The Programme elements will remain the same as the previous biennium; however, prioritization of the elements will need to be undertaken based on emerging needs and the human and financial resources available. She also indicated that the SPAW Programme will continue to promote the activities relevant to the development of guidelines for protected areas and species, and continue to promote protected areas for listing under the SPAW Protocol to complement the eighteen (18) now listed, as well as supporting the cooperation programme for the listed areas.
20. The Meeting was invited to approve the draft SPAW Workplan and Budget as revised by SPAW STAC6, and provide specific comments and recommendations as needed. It was highlighted that subsequently, the Workplan and Budget would be presented to the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena, Colombia, 11-13 December 2014), as part of the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2015-2016 Biennium for its final adoption.
21. The delegate of the United States of America underscored that the budget must be coherent with the proposed Workplan.
22. Mr. Andrade, on behalf of the Secretariat responded that the first step was to approve the Workplan in order to obtain a mandate, followed by steps to look for any gaps in funding.
23. The delegate from France conveyed the interest of French Guyana in the CLME+ project and insisted on the need to strengthen links with the Guiana Shield Facility. She expressed reservation regarding the budget and highlighted the need for an overview of the overall Cartagena Convention budget before approval could be given.
24. Mr. Ferdy Louisy, President of the National Park of Guadeloupe, provided a rapid update regarding the project on the reintroduction of the West Indian manatee in Guadeloupe (FWI). It was explained that only individuals from captive populations would be used with the first cohort expected to arrive in Guadeloupe in 2015.

25. The delegate from Barbados further emphasized the need for ensuring that sufficient funding is secured to fulfil the mandates of the Workplan.
26. The delegate from the Government of Colombia thanked the Secretariat for its work and saluted the progress of the CLME+ project, the cooperation between four (4) marine mammal sanctuaries, the reinforcement of capacity building activities for marine protected area managers, and activities on the control of the lionfish. On this specific issue, she added that a regional effort was necessary.
27. The delegate from the Dominican Republic thanked the Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centre for their efforts, in particular for the support of the marine mammal sanctuary and the establishment of the first management plan.
28. The Workplan and Budget were approved.

AGENDA ITEM 6: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC6) TO THE SPAW PROTOCOL (CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA, 8 DECEMBER 2014)

29. The Secretariat presented the recommendations of the SPAW STAC6 for review and approval (Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December 2014) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7) on the following documents:
 - Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Subprogramme for the 2015-2016 Biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6);
 - Report on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/3);
 - Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol (*includes shortlist of species proposed for listing into the Annexes*) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/4); and
 - Report of the Working Group to Develop the Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol (*includes draft guidance document*) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/5).
30. The delegate from France thanked the Secretariat for adding a recommendation to work on the issue pertaining to the brown algae (*Sargassum*) in the 2015-2016 Workplan.
31. Regarding Recommendation III of the SPAW STAC6, the delegate from the Government of Colombia insisted on the need for a consensus to add new species to the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol without delay. The delegate agreed with the remainder of Recommendation III, but submitted a proposal for the inclusion under Annex III, of species of coral reefs, birds and plants proposed by the *ad hoc* Working Group.
32. Both the delegates from Panama and the Dominican Republic respectively, supported the proposal by the Government of Colombia and expressed a preference for the inclusion of species of coral reefs under Annex II, instead of Annex III.
33. The delegate from France added further support for these proposals, especially regarding the inclusion of coral reefs.
34. The delegate from the Government of Barbados advocated the proposal by the Government of Colombia regarding the inclusion of new species without delay, since it would be in conformity with

other international agreements.

35. The delegate from the Government of the United States of America thanked Colombia for having submitted an official proposal for listing new species under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol. However, the delegate projected that his government would not be in a position to review the proposal on the floor, and would look forward to receiving more information regarding the status of these species in the Caribbean region. He reminded the Meeting that coral reefs already benefited from protection under US laws, and asked the Secretariat whether it would be possible, according to the rules of procedures, to take actions on the matter during the intersessional period.
36. The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands proposed a provisional listing of the species pending information provided within the next 60 days, and pending approval by all Parties in the ensuing 60 days.
37. The delegate from the Government of St. Lucia requested more time to review the proposal.
38. The delegate of the Dominican Republic expressed his surprise since the work on the list of species proposed for inclusion, had been on-going for six (6) years according to a mandate given to the *ad hoc* Working Group. He reasoned that ignoring the work done by the Working Group would undermine the spirit of the SPAW Protocol. Thus, he supported the proposal from the Government of Colombia and added that this issue was a priority for his government.
39. The delegate from France highlighted that much work had already been done regarding this issue and it would not be desirable to wait an additional two (2) years for listing new species under the Annexes. Therefore, she supported the proposal from the Government of the Caribbean Netherlands, as it would reconcile both the need for more time as expressed by some delegates, along with progress on this matter.
40. The delegate of Panama insisted on the need to move forward.
41. The delegate of Colombia suggested voting on the proposal made by her government.
42. The delegate from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago supported the proposals from both Panama and Colombia for the inclusion of the “non-objected list of species” (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/8*) under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol, and endorsed the proposal from the Government of the Caribbean Netherlands regarding the other “contentious” species.
43. The delegate of the United States of America reminded the Meeting that several delegations, including his government, had expressed their objection to the listing of new species. He asked the Secretariat whether a vote was possible in this case according to the rules of procedure.
44. In light of this, the delegate from the Government of Colombia further insisted that a vote should be organized.
45. The delegate from Bahamas supported the proposal from the Caribbean Netherlands which gave additional time to raise objections to the listing if needed.
46. On behalf of the Secretariat, Mr. Andrade Colmenares responded to the query regarding the two (2) procedural issues raised during the discussion, i.e. the possibility to take actions during the intersessional period, and the proposal to organize a vote without delay. He noted that according to the rules of procedure, both proposals were valid.

47. The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands persisted on the need to reach a consensus.
48. The delegate of the United States of America proposed that his government could host an intersessional meeting after additional information on species had been provided. In the case of the procedure proposed by the delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands, he inquired on the possible outcome if parties were unable to agree. He surmised that the intersessional procedure would be open to all proposals for inclusion of new species under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol.
49. The delegate of Colombia requested additional details from the delegate of the United States of America concerning the reservation of his government on Article 11(1).
50. The delegate of the United States of America elaborated that this reservation was a limited one, and that his government considered itself bound by Articles 11(1) and 11(2) respectively.
51. The delegate from the Government of Panama inquired if there were funds available to organize a sizeable meeting, and if there was a mechanism that could be utilized to adopt a proposal using electronic means.
52. The Secretariat reminded the Meeting of the possibility to have a provisional listing of the species, which would then be circulated within the Parties for their review, thereby providing an opportunity to raise any reservations.
53. The delegate of France shared her concern about the procedure of voting. She estimated that a vote should be avoided as it would demonstrate that Parties were not able to reach a consensus.
54. As such, the delegate from the Government of the United States solicited the Meeting for a reasonable solution.
55. The delegate of Colombia announced that her government was ready to pursue a compromise, and asked for time during the lunch break to dialogue with the delegation from the United States of America.
56. The Secretariat agreed to postpone the decision on Recommendation III after the lunch break, and suggested that the Meeting continue on to the first presentation of "Other business".
57. Following discussions, the delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands reiterated his proposal of a middle ground via a provisional approval of a new list of species for inclusion under the Annexes, followed by a period for review by the Parties.
58. The delegate of Colombia agreed to provide additional information on the relevant species.
59. Both delegates from Guyana and France supported the proposal from the Government of the Caribbean Netherlands.
60. The delegate from Panama asked for more details on the consensus proposed.
61. The Secretariat asked the *ad hoc* Working Group established at the SPAW STAC6 Meeting, to meet again in order to work on a consensual proposal.

62. The delegate of Panama queried whether the number of Parties still present at the meeting, would be sufficient to organize a vote.
63. The Secretariat responded affirmatively, since the minimum number of Parties required for a vote was nine (9).
64. In light of this, the delegate of Panama noted that no consensus had been reached, and subsequently asked for a vote on the “non-objected list of species”.
65. The delegate of Guyana requested clarification on the list that the delegate of Panama was referring to.
66. The delegate from Colombia responded that this list was in reference to the ten (10) species for which no objection had been raised.
67. The delegate of Guyana supported the proposal of a vote with the delegate from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago also supporting this proposal.
68. The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands requested that two (2) species of birds, (*Catharus bicknelli* and *Pterodroma hasitata*), be moved from Annex III to Annex II as proposed in the report of the *ad hoc* Working Group. He called upon the Secretariat to confirm that the requisite number of votes for adoption of a proposal was three-quarters (3/4) of the Parties still present at the Meeting. Given that eleven (11) Parties were still present, he noted that nine (9) votes in favor of the proposal would be required.
69. The Secretariat confirmed the rule.
70. The delegate of St. Lucia reiterated his request for additional time to review the proposal.
71. The delegate of Colombia supported the proposal from the Government of Panama for a vote.

The Vote

72. The Chairperson recorded the result of the vote on the proposal for the inclusion of ten (10) species under the Annexes of the Protocol:
- Nine (9) Parties in favor of the proposal (Bahamas, Belize, Caribbean Netherlands, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago);
 - One (1) Party against (the United States of America); and
 - Two (2) abstentions (France, Saint Lucia).
- According to article 44 of the Rules of Procedure, comments from Parties were received.*
73. The delegate of France explained that her government would agree with the proposal of listing the species under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol, but she considered it very regrettable that the Parties had to resort to a vote and she felt that it might prejudice the Convention.
74. The delegate of St. Lucia stated that an internal consultation was needed for some species on the list.
75. The delegate of the United States of America articulated that the procedure laid down in the Protocol for listing new species under the Annexes, had not been followed for the following reasons:
- i. *There was no clear nominating Party for the listing of new species;*
 - ii. *All the information required under Article 19 of the Protocol was not available; and*
 - iii. *There had been no evaluation of the proposal by the STAC.*

Therefore, the Government of the United States of America would review the available information before deciding whether or not it would submit a reservation. The delegate encouraged Colombia and other Parties to submit additional information supporting the listing of species. He conveyed his willingness to work with the *ad hoc* Working Group on the elaboration of guidelines for the future process of nomination of species.

76. The delegate of Colombia voiced satisfaction with the results of the voting procedure. She added that her government would be committed to improving the level of available information in collaboration with other countries, and agreed to work on the new process for listing.
77. The delegate of Panama noted that the COP had attempted on several occasions to reach a consensus, but that it had not been possible. Therefore, she believed that the procedure had not been violated, and that the *ad hoc* Working Group benefited from a mandate of SPAW COP6 to provide a list of species for inclusion under the Annexes. She expressed her satisfaction that some result had been obtained, despite not being ideal, and hoped that lessons would be learnt from this event.
78. The Chairperson concluded that the list of ten (10) species added under Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol, would now replace Recommendation III of the SPAW STAC6 Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

80. The Chairperson invited participants to raise any further issues not covered by the preceding agenda items, but which were relevant to the scope of the Meeting.
81. On behalf of the Directorate for Environment of French Guyana, Mr. Arnaud Anselin made a presentation on the main biodiversity issues in the region, the various relevant activities undertaken by the service, and opportunities for regional cooperation.
82. No further remarks were put forward.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

83. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the draft Decisions of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/3). The Meeting was invited to adopt the decisions, with amendments and corrections to be introduced, as appropriate. The decisions would be made available to the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena, Colombia, 11-13 December 2014) for adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

84. In closing, Mr. Andrade Colmenares noted that it had been a challenging meeting, and that a tremendous effort had been made by the Parties to sit and negotiate. He highlighted the preference of the Secretariat to have Parties negotiate, without the involvement of the Secretariat. He agreed that the meeting represented a significant precedent, and reflected that scarce resources did not enable the convening of the STAC and COP separately. He elaborated that the work done in the CEP Secretariat

was achieved with only three (3) professionals and the Coordinator and without the assistance of a lawyer, but he was satisfied with the accomplishments despite these challenges.

85. The one (1) day COP 8 Meeting was closed on Tuesday, 9 December 2014 at 11:30 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Meeting and the Secretariat.

ANNEX I: AGENDA

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
 - 2.1. Rules of Procedure
 - 2.2. Election of Officers
 - 2.3. Organisation of Work
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2013-2014, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe
5. Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2015-2016 Biennium
6. Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the SPAW Protocol (Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December, 2014)
7. Other Business
8. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
9. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II: DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Contracting Parties:

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

Taking note of the “Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2013-2014” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.3)” and **commending** the work of the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC;

Taking note of the “Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: RAC Operations and Budget for the period 2013-2014” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.4);

Having reviewed the “Report of the Working Group on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/3) and the Report of the First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention at the 66th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI). (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.9);

Having reviewed the “Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/4);

Having reviewed the “Report on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP)” (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.6) and the Report on the LifeWeb-Spain UNEP-CEP Meeting on Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.8);

Taking note of the “Report on the Workshop of Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) for the Wider Caribbean: Review, improve and revitalize the network and the nodes for more effective coral reef monitoring and data management” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10);

Taking note of the Statement of the UNEP CMS Secretariat to the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/CRP.1;

Having reviewed the “Draft Workplan and Budget for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Subprogramme for the 2015-2016 Biennium” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6); and

Having reviewed the “Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7).

Decide to:

1. **Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol.
2. **Approve** the thirteen (13) protected areas presented by STAC6 for listing under the SPAW Protocol and **welcome** the Secretariat’s initiative to continue to support the Protected Areas listed through the cooperation programme.
3. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat and to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties, in particular in those on the species review and on

the formats for the exemptions reports.

4. **Approves** the revised version of the Guidance document as presented in Annex III of the Report and extension of the duration of the Working Group to develop the formats for reporting on exemptions granted and **further agrees** to a review of the exemptions process using the Guidance document as approved, after two biennia.
5. **Amend** the SPAW Protocol species Annexes by adding the following species to Annex II and Annex III respectively:

ANNEX II

Corals

Species	Common name
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	Staghorn coral
<i>Acropora palmata</i>	Elkhorn coral
<i>Montastraea annularis</i>	Boulderstar coral
<i>Montastraea faveolata</i>	Mountain star coral

Birds

Species	Common name
<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	Zorzal / Tordo de Bicknell
<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>	Petrel de Coronilla negra

ANNEX III

Birds

Species	Common name
<i>Patagioenas leucophala</i>	White-crowned pigeon

Plants

Species	Common name
<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	Lignum vitae, Holywood
<i>Ekmanianthe longifora</i>	Roble Real
<i>Bombacopsis emarginata</i>	Seibon de Arroyo

6. **Adopt** the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7, with amendments as reflected below:

Recommendation I

Points 12, 13, 14 and 15 to read as follows:

“12. The SPAW Secretariat should work with SPAW Parties and CITES to develop a regional wildlife enforcement network

13. Countries that are Parties to CITES should join the CITES Standing Committee contact group discussing the Bahamas report and recommendations on the iguana poaching incident. SPAW, Parties and NGOs should support recommendations emanating from the contact group.

14. Parties and NGOs should work within their respective spheres of influence, such as the EU, CARICOM and CITES to urge the other Parties to regulate within their national legal systems the ownership, possession, sale and advertising of CITES-listed living species endemic to the Caribbean, to keep illegally acquired specimens, and their progeny, from entering domestic or international markets.

15. Parties considering exemptions under Article 11.2, take appropriate measures under their national laws and policies to ensure that these specimens or their offspring do not unintentionally end up being commercially traded in the future.”

Recommendation III

- “1. The *ad hoc* working group on the listing of species to the Annexes be reestablished in the intersessional period to continue its work.
2. The working group elaborate guidelines (e.g. a checklist) for the nomination of species for listing in the SPAW Annexes using Article 11(4) as a basis.
3. The draft guidelines developed and approved by the working group be circulated to SPAW Protocol Parties as soon as it is available.
4. Parties be invited to use the draft guidelines for the development of nominations of species for inclusion in the SPAW Annexes in time for consideration by STAC7.
5. The draft guidelines be forwarded to STAC7 for its consideration”.

Recommendation IV

As reflected above in Decision 4.

7. **Approves** the proposed SPAW Workplan for 2015-2016 as revised by STAC6, and its budget subject to the approval of CEP’s budget by 16th IGM and 13th Cartagena Convention COP, and **further requests** the Secretariat to develop a strategy for mobilization of resources.
8. **Welcome** offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possible hosting of the Seventh SPAW STAC meeting in early 2016.

ANNEX III: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
<u>Working Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/1	Provisional Agenda	1-3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6	Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Subprogramme for the 2015-2016 Biennium	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7	Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December 2014 (<i>to be prepared during the meeting</i>)	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/3	Decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014 (<i>to be prepared during the meeting</i>)	8
<u>Information Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents	2
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants (<i>to be prepared during the meeting</i>)	1
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/3	Report on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol	4,6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/4	Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol (<i>includes shortlist of species proposed for listing into the Annexes</i>)	4,6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/5	Report of the Working Group to Develop the Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol (<i>includes draft guidance document</i>)	4,6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.3	Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2013-2014	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.4	Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: operations and budget for the period 2013-2014	4,6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.5	Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities (<i>includes supplement on the completed Caribbean Challenge Project and the ongoing Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project</i>)	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.6	Update on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MAMP), including the Government of Spain-UNEP Lifeweb project " <i>Protecting Habitats and Migration Corridors for Marine Mammals in the South and Northeast Pacific and the Wider Caribbean through Marine Protected Area Networks</i> "	4

Symbol	Title	Annex III Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.7	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) and the outcomes of the Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project: Summary Report, Best Practices and Lessons Learnt	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.8	Report on the LifeWeb-Spain UNEP-CEP Meeting on Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 23 - 24 April 2014 □ □	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.9	Report of the First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention at the 66 th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, November 5, 2013	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10	Report on the Workshop of Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) for the Wider Caribbean: Review, improve and revitalize the network and the nodes for more effective coral reef monitoring and data management, Curacao, 6-8 August 2014	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.11	Status of Development of the Regional Strategy for the Control of the Lionfish Invasion in the Wider Caribbean Region	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.12	Propuesta de los Estados Unidos para la inclusión del mero estriado (<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>) en el Anexo III del Protocolo Relativo a Las Áreas y a la Flora y Fauna Silvestres Especialmente Protegidas en la Región del Gran Caribe del Convenio para la Protección y el Desarrollo del Medio Marino en la Región del Gran Caribe	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.13	Nassau Grouper, <i>Epinephelus striatus</i> (Bloch 1792) Biological Report	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.14	Report of the First Meeting of the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations, Miami, United States of America, 29–31 October 2013	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/INF.5	Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.7	Report on the Ratification of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols (Cartagena Convention)	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.31/3	Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012.	8

ANNEX IV: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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