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**Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific  
and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC)  
to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas  
and Wildlife (SPA W) in the Wider Caribbean Region**

**Havana, Cuba, 3-6 August 1999**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Resolution of the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean (SPAW), held in Kingston, 15-18 January 1990, agreed to bring into existence an Ad Hoc Group of Experts to function as an Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) on Protected Areas and Wildlife until the Protocol comes into force. The Ninth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Special Meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (Kingston, 12-14 June 1991) endorsed this Decision. In light of the above, and in keeping with Decision No. 21 taken by the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Fifth Contracting Parties Meeting to the Cartagena Convention (Kingston, 9-13 December 1996), and the Twelfth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Special Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Kingston, 9-12 June 1997), this Meeting was convened by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme in Havana, Cuba, 3-6 August 1999, with the financial and in-kind support from the Governments of Cuba and the United Kingdom.

2. The Meeting was convened by the Secretariat with the following main objectives:

- to review the status of implementation of activities since the last ISTAC Meeting in 1995, with emphasis on the 1998-1999 SPAW Workplan and Budget and to provide recommendations as appropriate for their finalization;
- to review and provide concrete recommendations for the implementation of the proposed 2000-2001 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme;
- to review and discuss the activities in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) in the Wider Caribbean Region and provide recommendations for its further implementation; and
- to note the status of development concerning the establishment of the Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for the SPAW Regional Programme.

3. The National Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme nominated the experts invited to the Meeting. Additionally, representatives of international, regional, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations were invited to attend the Meeting as observers. The list of participants to the Meeting is appended as **Annex I** to this Report.

### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

4. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Co-ordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) of UNEP Secretariat and by Mr. Antonio Perera, Director of the National Centre of Protected Areas (CNAP) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA) of the Government of Cuba, on Tuesday, 3 August 1999 at 10:00a.m. in Havana, Cuba, in the Conference Room of the Hotel Parque Central-Golden Tulip.

5. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Antonio Perera welcomed the delegations to Cuba and noted the evolution of management schemes for the marine environment and the proliferation of activities regarding conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in Cuba and regionally in response to various regional and global calls to action. In particular, Mr. Perera mentioned the National Environmental Strategy and the new Environmental Law of Cuba and their specific provisions for protected areas. Mr. Perera also mentioned actions taken by his Government at both the regional and global levels such as the ratification of the SPAW Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Ramsar Convention. In closing, Mr. Perera wished the Meeting success and that all delegates are able to return home not only with the warmth of Cuba and the Cuban people, but also with the satisfaction of having had a rich exchange of information toward the advancement of regional co-operation.

6. In Mr. Andrade's opening remarks, he welcomed the participants and thanked the Government of Cuba for their financial and staff support making the meeting possible. In particular, he thanked Mr. Perera and the staff of CNAP and CITMA for their efforts. Mr. Andrade continued by inviting all participants to reflect on the achievements of the SPAW Programme since the last Meeting of ISTAC in 1995. In this regard, he noted that despite the fact that ISTAC had not met in almost five years, the work of the Secretariat had continued and had resulted in a number of important achievements. For example, the SPAW Programme has successfully concluded a Memorandum of Co-operation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, has established itself as the regional contact for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and as the focal point for the implementation of biodiversity activities in the SIDS Programme of Action (SIDS/POA). The Secretariat was also successful in raising approximately US\$2 million in the last five years for SPAW from various sources, including the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, and the United Nations Foundation (funds from Ted Turner). Several organizations also offered assistance and collaboration in furthering the ratifications of SPAW and in the implementation of SPAW activities. These organizations included: Monitor International, Third Millennium Foundation, IUCN, IFAW, ECCN, TNC, WIDECAS, OECS-NRMU, CTO, CHA/CAST, the Law of the Sea Institute, CANARI, ACS and CCA, among others. This financial and other support was crucial and reinforced the importance of the SPAW Protocol in the Region and to promote concrete activities in the areas of conservation of coral reefs, management of marine protected areas, and sustainable tourism. In this regard, he also noted the importance of having developed the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management (CaMPAM) network as a platform for communication, training and assistance for marine protected areas in the Region.

### **Agenda item 2: Election of Officers**

7. The Meeting elected from among the experts the following officers of the Meeting:
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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Chairperson:                      | Mr. Antonio Perera, Cuba                                |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson: | Ms. Michelle Fulford, United Kingdom (Turks and Caicos) |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson: | Ms. Cecilia Hernandez, Dominican Republic               |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson: | Mr. Michel Sinoir, France (Guadeloupe)                  |
| Rapporteur:                       | Mr. Maurice Isaacs, Bahamas                             |

### **Agenda item 3: Organization of the Meeting**

- (a) Rules of procedure

8. The Meeting agreed to apply mutatis mutandis the rules of procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP as contained in document UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3.

- (b) Organization of the work

9. English, French, and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided by the Secretariat for the plenary sessions of the Meeting. The working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.

10. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of a working group, which was established by the Chairperson. No simultaneous interpretation was available for the working group.

### **Agenda item 4: Adoption of the Agenda**

11. The Secretariat presented the Provisional Agenda for approval of the Meeting. The Representative from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) asked for an opportunity to present the possible link between SPAW and CITES to explore avenues for potential collaboration between the two. The Secretariat suggested this presentation occur during Agenda Item 8 and this was agreed to by the Representative from the CITES Secretariat. Subsequently, the Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda as proposed by the Secretariat and contained in document UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG. 22/1. The approved Agenda is appended as **Annex II** to this Report. The documents, which were made available to the Meeting as support to the various agenda items, are listed in **Annex III** to this Report.

**Agenda item 5: Evaluation of projects and activities implemented under the scope of the SPAW Regional Programme**

12. Based on Recommendation 17 arising from the Third Meeting of ISTAC (Kingston, 11-13 October 1995), the Secretariat presented an evaluation of the major projects implemented under the scope of SPAW and their achievements, since the last ISTAC Meeting in 1995. During the presentation, the Secretariat referred to document UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/3, as well as other relevant information and reference documents.

13. The Secretariat highlighted several points and accomplishments of the SPAW Programme since the Third Meeting of ISTAC as presented in the document UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/3, but did not go through each item in detail as they were already included in the document. The Secretariat noted one change in paragraph 5 of the document regarding the establishment of SPAW Focal Points. Since the printing of this document, the Government of the USA had designated a Focal Point, bringing the number of countries without SPAW Focal Points to a total of thirteen.

14. The Chairman thanked the Secretariat for the presentation on the evaluation of projects and activities and invited the Meeting to comment on the presentation.

15. The Government of the USA offered comments on the presentation and thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive and detailed presentation of the activities and projects, noting in particular the increased numbers of ratifications, the regional network on marine protected areas, the implementation of the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) and the leadership on ICRI activities, and the growth and positive change of the Secretariat in securing additional funding from new sources. These were noted as significant achievements despite the shortages of funding and staff resources within the Secretariat.

16. The Delegate of the USA noted the need to provide an improved method to evaluate the impact of the Programme, in particular at the national and regional levels. The Delegate suggested an evaluation based on changes in the field rather than on the number of reports, plans, or documents produced. In this context, he used an example of the significant number of species recovery plans produced, but indicated the need for more direct measurements of national impacts and species recovery.

17. The Delegate of the USA requested that SPAW define its role in the implementation of the SIDS/POA and furtherance of the SPAW Memorandum of Co-operation (MOC) with the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). The Delegate also asked that the projects and activities on protection of species be further developed, however, with the realization that this was funding-dependent. He noted the need for SPAW to further articulate its unique role in the Region and then to explore the expansion of SPAW activities within that niche. The Delegate concluded his intervention with reiterating his position that the Secretariat had made significant progress.

18. The Delegate of Mexico noted the priority issues on which the Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be concentrating their efforts during the next four years, in particular those relevant to protected areas and biodiversity. In this context, she urged governments to present the recommendations of this Meeting, as well as the 2000-2001 Workplan of SPAW to the upcoming IV Meeting of the Inter-sessional Committee in Lima, Peru in October 1999, in order to seek their inclusion in the four-year environmental workplan for Latin America and the Caribbean.

19. The Delegation of Venezuela noted the achievements of the Programme since 1995, but also noted a lack of communication between the Focal Points and the Secretariat, and urged the Secretariat to keep the Focal Points informed on the activities that are in support of the objectives of the SPAW Protocol and that are being implemented with non-governmental organizations, universities and national research centres within their countries.

20. In response to the various comments the Secretariat noted the completion of work as much as possible within the financial and staff limitations of the Secretariat. He also noted the support of a few donors and Governments, but asked that the Governments become more involved in financial contributions as well in the implementation of the workplan. As an example, he noted the contributions of the Governments of Cuba and of the U.K. toward the convening of the present meeting. Regarding the financial contributions, the Secretariat encouraged Governments to keep current their contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund. In addition, he noted that CaMPAM was initiated without funding and despite its success, funding should be sought and reflected in the workplan and budget for 2000-2001.

21. The Secretariat noted the comment by the Delegate of Mexico regarding the need to collaborate with other UNEP bodies and specifically to coordinate the environment workplan for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Secretariat mentioned CEP's existing collaborative efforts between SPAW and CBD as an example of this co-ordination of programmes within UNEP, as well as the current efforts with UNEP's ROLAC to prepare and jointly present to GEF a proposal for funding on strengthening MPAs in SIDS.

22. Regarding the comments of the Delegate of Venezuela, the Secretariat noted that the Secretariat works through the SPAW Focal Points and asked that it increases the use of the Internet (e-mail and website of the Caribbean Environment Programme) to better co-ordinate with the Focal Points and governments on all aspects of the Programme. The Government of the USA encouraged participants to ensure better coordination between the Focal Points and to facilitate communication and co-ordination in the interim period between meetings of the ISTAC (or STAC).

**Agenda item 6: Status of implementation of the revised 1998-1999 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme**

23. The Secretariat presented the status of implementation of the revised 1998-1999 workplan and budget of the SPAW Regional Programme (contained in document UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/3) prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the recommendations of the Twelfth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Special Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Kingston, 9-12 June 1997).

24. The Chairman then invited each delegation to the Meeting to provide a brief report which had been requested by the Secretariat in preparation for the Meeting, on their domestic, regional and global activities in relation to the objectives of the SPAW Protocol and Programme, and generally on protected areas and threatened and endangered species.

25. The Government of the Netherlands Antilles began with a discussion of their new laws on protected areas and species that contain many similar provisions to the SPAW Protocol.

26. The Government of Anguilla has established new coastal zone management institutions and strengthened existing ones. At this time few laws exist that protect biodiversity, though there are a number of initiatives in the area of coastal zone management and biodiversity, and review of national legislation. Laws do exist for the establishment of protected areas though no sites have yet been established. On a separate issue, the Delegate of Anguilla mentioned the problems of receiving information through the Government of the United Kingdom and asked that they be contacted simultaneously by the Secretariat in the future.

27. The Delegate from the Bahamas noted several issues regarding conservation of the coastal areas. The Bahamian Government has drafted marine mammal legislation and is proposing the establishment of several marine protected areas and noted the passage of legislation for the protection of coastal areas. As a result of this work, the Delegate also reported a significant increase in public awareness of coastal issues.

28. The Delegate of Belize mentioned that although they have not yet ratified the Protocol due to minor technical difficulties, he noted that these matters will be rectified soon and he believes that Belize will ratify the SPAW Protocol before the end of the current year as they have already met all requirements for ratification. Several domestic laws related to provisions of the SPAW Protocol are also being updated and are being revised. For example, the Wildlife Protection Act and the Fisheries Act which already protect many of the species listed in the SPAW Protocol. Several protected areas have been established and more are being developed.

29. The Delegation of the Government of Colombia noted that they have strengthened their system of marine parks and also noted current work to establish a biosphere reserve under the UNESCO Programme. Regarding endangered species, Colombia has participated in the



development of guidelines for management and recovery plans. Colombia is also working to establish guidelines for mangrove management. The Delegate also noted Colombia's ratification of the Ramsar Convention and SPAW Protocol.

30. The Delegation from Cuba identified their main activities as: legal action for environmental protection and a special decree on protected areas, specifically on coastal area management and protected species. Cuba has conducted research on crocodiles, sea turtles and other species of interest for inclusion in management plans and other research on mangroves and coral reefs. Cuba has also established a national centre for protected areas.

31. The Delegate of the United States informed that his Government had sponsored a National Ocean Conference in 1998 that concluded with a call for several new initiatives, including the US Coral Reef Initiative and Management of Marine Sanctuaries. Among these are ICRI activities to map US coral reefs in their States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean, and working toward the development of a global map of coral reef diseases. The Delegate noted the collaboration with CEP on the Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) project and the ENCORE project. The USA noted its support to WIDECAST and other conservation programmes for threatened and endangered species such as manatees, conch and birds.

32. The Delegate from France noted that French legislation is being applied equally among all French Territories in the WCR. Since 1995, these territories have established a network of national parks. France has also developed plans to protect these areas against urbanization working through sustainable tourism measures. In the area of species, Guadeloupe has introduced a programme for the reintroduction of the manatee and activities on the restriction on the take of queen conch. In addition, France has established research programmes on marine turtles and cetaceans. Over the next few years they will be working more specifically to develop programmes and activities more suitable to the local populations in the French territories.

33. The Delegate from Guatemala informed that his Government has been working toward the creation of new protected areas and the protection of some endangered species (e.g., sea turtles, iguanas and manatees). This year Guatemala began the protection of Punta Manabique on the Atlantic coast in that country. UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme through its former IPID Programme (now AMEP) on integrated coastal area management was instrumental in this development through a project implemented in 1996-1997. Guatemala is working along the border with Honduras to protect the iguana and the mangroves in Punta Manabique and is also co-ordinating with NGOs in the area for the protection of the coastal zone. Guatemala is also updating legislation and implementing navigational rules for the Rio Dulce National Park.

34. The Delegate of the Cayman Islands noted the announcement by the United Kingdom, in late 1998, of its intention to ratify the SPAW Protocol. Specifically, the Government of the Cayman Islands has hired a legal consultant to assist in the drafting of domestic legislation necessary for incorporation into the provisions of the Protocol. The delegate also noted that they have recommended a review of the current management of marine protected areas. Threatened species programmes include several animal and plant species in Cayman. Specifically, for

marine turtles they are looking at nesting activities in all of the Cayman Islands. Plans are also underway to reduce the take of lobster and queen conch.

35. The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands noted that in 1997, they secured significant funding from the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) for a coastal resources management project to protect and promote sustainable use and management of marine protected areas in the Turks and Caicos Islands. In addition, the delegate mentioned that they are reviewing guidelines for marine mammals and will possibly host a whale-watching workshop in 2000 that will review regional guidelines and develop educational and research programmes for the Turks and Caicos Islands. In the area of coral reefs, Turks and Caicos is currently conducting dive surveys and collecting relevant data. The Overseas Territories met with the Government of the United Kingdom in June 1999 to develop an environmental charter for the Territories, which will deal with fisheries conservation and protected areas management. The Turks and Caicos Islands have formed a CITES working group and have initiated legal consultations for CITES implementation.

36. The Delegate from Jamaica mentioned her Government's new 1997 policy for a system of protected species and several other draft management policies for beaches, coastal areas and coral reefs, as well as the formulation of a biodiversity strategy and action plan. Jamaica has prepared a series of guidelines for the implementation of protected areas management. To date, a number of marine protected areas have been declared and a National Trust Fund has been established for protected areas. Strategies have also been established for the recovery and management of orchids and several animal species including queen conch, manatees, the sooty tern, Jamaican iguana and American crocodile. The Government of Jamaica also published a National Environmental Education Action Plan for Sustainable Development, with assistance from the Environmental Action Programme (ENACT) of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and a web-based State of the Coasts Report with assistance from the CEPNET/IDB Project of CEP. Having ratified the CBD, Jamaica is moving ahead on the implementation of activities in this area. Jamaica has also ratified CITES.

37. The Delegate from Mexico noted that they have not yet ratified the SPAW Protocol due to internal difficulties. Nonetheless, Mexico still provides support to SPAW-related activities and is promoting the provisions of the SPAW Protocol, including international actions with several countries. The Delegate also stated that they will soon be able to ratify the Protocol and that many provisions of the SPAW Protocol are already reflected in national legislation.

38. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic noted the creation of a National Crocodile Council, which is inter-institutional in nature, and the convening of a regional meeting on the trading of queen conch which took place in March 1998. Currently, the Executive Power approved a decree which prohibits queen conch trading from 1 July to 31 October, every year. She also informed the Meeting about the creation of a National Commission for the Protection of Marine Mammals and announced the support of her Government for the convening of the regional workshop on sea turtle conservation in the Dominican Republic: Consultation for Effective Regional Management, 16-18 November 1999. Furthermore, the Delegate mentioned that the National System of Protected Areas in her country oversees thirty-one areas, which includes four scientific reserves, two historic parks and one panoramic view. The National Directorate of

Parks (DNP) is the responsible agency which manages twenty-one national parks. The DNP has more than 26 co-operative agreements with NGOs, private and public institutions. In 1998, the Dominican Republic ratified the SPAW Protocol.

39. St. Vincent and Grenadines signed and ratified the SPAW Protocol in 1991 and has since developed a sea turtle recovery plan. In this regard, the Delegate also noted the establishment of a sanctuary for the hawksbill turtle. The Delegate noted that a solid national legal base for the environment and protected areas is in place in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Twenty-four wildlife reserves have been established, including one marine park and thirty-two marine conservation areas. However, greater enforcement of laws is needed. There are currently no terrestrial parks, but there is a National Parks Bill before their legislature. The Delegate also noted that their national biodiversity action plan is under development.

40. The Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago noted his country's actions since the last ISTAC meeting. Recently, Cabinet gave the go ahead to ratify the SPAW Protocol and they expect to ratify soon. In 1994, the Government established the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) which has recently trained police officers to enforce the environmental laws. Trinidad and Tobago is developing a list of sensitive species and areas. Environmental Impact Assessments are required for all major development projects and must be approved by the EMA before any development begins. They have also drafted legislation on the establishment of a national park and wildlife authority. Other actions include the closure of leatherback turtle nesting grounds during the nesting season; actions taken to stop rice farming in the Ramsar site; and the Ministry of Agriculture filling-in illegal channels to benefit the manatee ponds and increase habitat; revision of the Forests and Sawmill Act and completion of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan.

41. The Delegation from Venezuela presented its report which is contained in UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.13 and mentions the establishment of 12 national parks and 3 wildlife areas. In addition, a plan for environmental control and management for a sea turtle nesting programme has been developed including a research and tagging programme. A wildlife area along the coast is also under development in a critical habitat area. Two training programmes have been developed for the planning and management of coastal areas aimed at environmental management officials, but the lack of resources has as yet prevented their implementation. They have developed several species recovery, research, and management plans, for example for queen conch, and have developed international co-operation programmes within the Wider Caribbean. Venezuelan legislation for protected species is substantial and they are currently in the second stage of a biodiversity strategy which is identifying and rectifying deficiencies in management programmes.

42. Following the country reports, the Chairman invited presentations by the Observers from the non-governmental organizations (NGO) participating in the Meeting.

43. The Observer from the Cetacean Society International (CSI), noted that CSI is an organization of volunteers which raises public awareness of cetacean and conservation programmes worldwide. CSI is providing financial support to marine scientists through training, field work, and scientific exchange at the national level. The Observer offered to disseminate information from the 4<sup>th</sup> ISTAC Meeting to others and offered to assist the Secretariat and the CEP in its endeavours toward SPAW implementation.

44. The Observer from the Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network (ECCN) explained that the ECCN is a regional volunteer network that has become an affiliate of the Smithsonian Marine Mammal Programme. ECCN forms partnerships with Eastern Caribbean stakeholders for conservation efforts and plays a supporting role for SPAW activities in the Wider Caribbean. ECCN is also developing a marine mammal database for the Wider Caribbean.

45. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), since 1995, has collaborated with many governments and organizations to promote the conservation of marine mammals in the Wider Caribbean, including training programmes and hands-on experience. IFAW has worked on educational programmes with UNEP and sponsored international workshops for the development of responsible whale-watching activities, a floating classroom, and a traveling exhibit on coral reefs. IFAW desires to expand projects and activities to several other species and other countries of the Wider Caribbean. IFAW is committed to continued collaboration with UNEP to raise awareness and participation in SPAW activities and programmes.

46. The Observer from IUCN-The World Conservation Union noted that IUCN is reviewing and updating its guidelines for the establishment of marine protected areas based on the results of its implementation since 1991. The revised guidelines will also emphasize the role of the community in marine protected area management. In Meso-America, IUCN has a programme to develop comprehensive strategies on wetlands and coastal zone management, and will address institutional strengthening among local organizations. Specifically related to SPAW, IUCN has provided support to CaMPAM in the form of a list server. They have also designated Ms. Hazel McShine of the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), of Trinidad and Tobago as the marine protected area (MPA) working group leader for its marine programme in the Caribbean, to work with the WCPA Vice-Chair for the Caribbean. IUCN offers policy support to its members and partners in regional and global debates. IUCN publications of relevance to SPAW include sustainable tourism, biodiversity, protected areas policy and planning and the economics of protected areas. Additionally, relevant information is routinely distributed through its periodicals and newsletters.

47. The Observer from Monitor International congratulated the performance of the Secretariat over the last five years, especially in the face of limited resources and noted their commitment to support the SPAW Programme and Protocol in the Wider Caribbean Region. They have established a consultative group in Washington, D.C. with the purpose of supporting the Cartagena Convention. In addition, they are working with national authorities and NGOs to promote SPAW Protocol activities. They are developing a website on threatened and endangered species listed in the SPAW Protocol to be used as a management tool for the CEP countries. Monitor International continues to explore opportunities for collaborative efforts with the CBD and CITES, and in that respect advocates greater co-ordination of the multilateral

environmental agreements of relevance to the Wider Caribbean. Monitor International is also closely monitoring the development of the Protocol on Land-based Sources because of its close relevance to SPAW in its classification of waters and the special protection afforded to SPAW areas and habitats.

48. The Observer from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) noted that TNC has protected area site work going on in 16 areas of the Wider Caribbean. TNC works with Governments, NGOs and communities to raise funds using scientific principles. They have developed a finance manual, site conservation planning manual, hydrological planning manual, a manual on economic valuation of ecosystems, and community-based land-use planning manual. At the regional level, TNC is involved in a marine conservation study for Latin America and the Caribbean which deals primarily with classification systems for ecosystems. TNC is also working on the Meso-American Barrier Reef project and its proposal is under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). TNC also intends to work with the CaMPAM network.

49. The Observer from the Third Millennium Foundation, based in Italy, noted that his organization focuses on global species conservation efforts and marine environmental treaties. The ship of the Third Millennium Foundation – the VEGA, is currently completing a Caribbean tour to promote the ratification of the SPAW Protocol in a positive way among the potential Parties to the Protocol.

50. The Observer from WIDECAST noted that her organization is directly involved in the implementation of Article 10 of the SPAW Protocol. In the last ten years, the Secretariat has supported WIDECAST in the development of National Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs) and in the production of technical and educational materials. Production of STRAPs has been more advanced in the English-speaking Caribbean. The hiring of a Latin American Programme Director is expected to facilitate and accelerate the work in Central and South America. The Observer noted that the existence of STRAP's has had several impacts at the local level. For example, in Anguilla WIDECAST has assisted in field surveys and provided technical advice regarding the recent moratorium on sea turtles taken in that Territory. WIDECAST country co-ordinators and team members carried out the Jamaica, Barbados and Antigua site surveys of the recent NOAA/NMFS Caribbean Hawksbill Satellite Telemetry Project. The research spearheaded by WIDECAST in the recently declared Portland Bight Protected Area of Jamaica undoubtedly played an important role in documenting the importance of that area's biological resources.

51. In keeping with the objective of this Agenda Item as noted by the Secretariat, the Chairman invited the Observers from ECCN and IFAW to present their document UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.7 entitled, *Marine mammals of the Wider Caribbean Region: A Review of Their conservation Status*, which had been commissioned by the Secretariat. The Observers concluded their presentation with a series of recommendations to the Meeting for a Marine Mammal Action Plan for the WCR.

52. Following the presentation, the Chairman opened the Meeting for comments on the ECCN and IFAW presentations. The Cuban Delegation noted the recommendation made during the presentation on information sharing and in particular noted that important conservation efforts made by Cuba were omitted during the presentation. There are more than thirty sites and manatee habitats fully assessed and the only threats that occur are due to accidental capture or land-based sources of pollution, as there is no consumption of any type. Cuba also has research programmes on dolphins. The Delegate from Jamaica supported the ECCN/IFAW call for a Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region, as well as several other delegations which greatly commended the presentation and supported the recommendations contained in the document. Other delegates, including those from Belize, Colombia, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic and offered to provide ECCN with additional information on marine mammals in their waters. Emphasis should also be given to educational programmes.

53. The Delegate from the Turks and Caicos informed that her Government is hosting a whale-watching workshop in the winter of 2000 and she mentioned plans to look into the designation of a whale sanctuary in the Muchoir Bank area.

54. The Observer from WIDECAST recommended that ECCN use identification sheets similar to the WIDECAST sea turtle identification sheets to assist with local identification of marine mammals.

55. The Delegation from France expressed their interest in reintroducing the West Indian Manatee to the waters of Guadeloupe and would like to co-ordinate with other WCR countries towards this goal.

56. The Meeting agreed to adopt a recommendation to the next Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) of CEP to develop a Marine Mammal Action Plan for the WCR and to ensure that their delegations to the IGM were appropriately briefed to advance its adoption by the IGM.

57. In keeping with the Agenda of the Meeting, the Observer from TNC was invited to present the information document entitled, Funding Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean: A Guide for Managers and Conservation Organizations (DRAFT) (UNEP(WATER)/CAR/WG.22/INF.5), which had been jointly prepared with the Secretariat. The Observer from TNC noted several existing innovative funding mechanisms in countries of the WCR and asked the delegates for comments on the accuracy and level of detail of WCR case studies presented, balance of contents, applicability to managers, "user-friendliness", and other comments. The Observer noted that new information necessitated the inclusion of four additional case studies; these being from Cuba, Jamaica and Turks and Caicos as well as information from the recently published TNC guidelines on Incentives for the Conservation of Private Lands in Latin America. TNC noted its willingness to take verbal or written comments on the draft document, directly or through the Secretariat, and hoped to contribute to the finalization of the document in the near future as noted by the Secretariat.

58. The US Delegation congratulated TNC and the Secretariat on this draft Guide and noted its comprehensiveness. The USA asked that in addition to comments from the Focal Points, that the document be sent to the CaMPAM Network giving them an opportunity to comment so that practitioners and policy-makers can both provide comments for a well-rounded document. The Delegate also noted the need to expand the section on community participation and local financing and proposed a deadline be set for comments to ensure that the document be completed soon and put into use.

59. The Secretariat offered comments on the process to complete the TNC proposed document, first asking SPAW Focal Points and participants at this Meeting to facilitate comments from interested stakeholders and protected area managers within their respective countries. Additionally, the Secretariat will distribute the document to the CaMPAM network for comments. The Secretariat proposed a five (5) week comment period beginning with the closure of the 4<sup>th</sup> ISTAC Meeting. The Observer from IUCN asked that all relevant local and Regional NGOs be provided copies for comment as well. Focal Points should ensure that this consultation take place among local NGOs within their respective countries and the Secretariat will facilitate this review with regional NGOs.

60. The USA also noted the broad use of expertise from the relevant NGOs in the SPAW Programme and congratulated the Secretariat in cultivating this relationship.

61. The Cuban Delegation stressed the need to have documents in all three languages prior to their adoption and that the TNC document had not yet been translated. The Secretariat clarified that the document was not being presented for adoption at this Meeting, however, if the Secretariat is to present the document to the IGM for adoption, it will then be presented in three languages. It was agreed, however, that the Government of Cuba will make every effort to translate the document into Spanish as a draft prior to its distribution for comments. The delegate from the Turks and Caicos Islands also congratulated TNC on their presentation and stated that the information will be passed on to their MPA managers for input.

62. In keeping with the objectives under this Agenda Item, the Delegation of France was asked by the Chairman to present that status of the development of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (RAC) in Guadeloupe. The Government of France noted that US\$230,000 per year is being allocated for the RAC, as well as a small team of experts to staff the RAC. These experts will be at the disposal of CAR/RCU, and the Parties to the SPAW Protocol will adopt the programme of work of the RAC. The Secretariat, rather than the Government of France, will direct this team. The Secretariat has drafted a letter of agreement that will be signed by France by the end of 1999, thereby establishing the RAC before the end of the year. The RAC will provide support to CAR/RCU without an additional financial or human resource burden on CAR/RCU. On a similar note, the Delegate noted that the French Government is moving ahead to ratify the SPAW Protocol, but did not specify a date.

63. The Delegation of the USA thanked the French Delegation for the initiative and presentation. The Delegation went on further to inquire how the RAC activities and programmes would be developed and how the RAC would interact with the SPAW Programme. France noted that the RAC would not create new programmes but would work through the Focal Points to

implement projects and activities that are within the SPAW Programme. The main purpose of the RAC will be to provide additional support to CAR/RCU with regard to co-ordination of projects and information on specially protected areas and wildlife.

64. The Secretariat was invited to make comments on the French proposal for the SPAW RAC. The Co-ordinator of CAR/RCU noted that the establishment of the RAC was welcomed by the Secretariat and noted the establishment of RACs within other Regional Seas Programmes, as well as the Secretariat's efforts towards the establishment of another RAC for the Oil Spills Protocol, in co-operation with the IMO and the Government of the Netherlands Antilles. He also noted that the RAC will assist in implementing decisions of the Parties and funds approved by France indicate a vote of confidence to the Caribbean Environment Programme.

65. In regard to paragraph 72 of UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/3, and the proposal to strengthen marine protected areas in SIDS through a Block B GEF project, the Delegate from Venezuela requested that the Secretariat provide additional information on this project to the Technical Focal Points of SPAW. In regard to paragraph 80, the Delegate was encouraged by support of the Secretariat for training programmes and would contact CAR/RCU to further support Venezuela in this regard. Regarding paragraph 88, the Delegate noted the existence of the Inter-American Convention on Sea Turtles and requested that the Secretariat provide additional information, if available, on the status of this Convention, in particular regarding co-ordination linkages between the Secretariat and the Convention.

66. The Delegate from Cuba mentioned that the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) should be listed as one of the organizations which has supported SPAW ratification in the region. The US Delegation also asked that the US Fish and Wildlife Service be added to the list in light of their contribution to SPAW projects such as the database on marine protected areas.

67. The delegate from Mexico made reference to the CaMPAM activities noted in the current workplan and requested clarification regarding CaMPAM's relationship to the RAC in Guadeloupe.

68. In response to the inquiries, the Secretariat noted that the proposed Block B GEF project focussed on SIDS and in this context Focal Points in those countries will be contacted shortly by the Secretariat for the relevant letters of support. The secretariat asked the SIDS countries represented at the Meeting to co-ordinate at the national level with the Focal Points to assist in this regard. Regarding the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention, the secretariat explained that it has not been directly involved, but is aware of its work. The Secretariat noted its active participation with the ACS and in particular the environmental strategy and noted the need to increase efforts to co-ordinate activities and objectives of the SPAW Protocol with the ACS. The Secretariat also noted that the SPAW RAC would help to expand the CaMPAM network.



**Agenda item 7: The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its implementation in the Wider Caribbean Region**

69. The Secretariat noted that since the development of ICRI, and in particular its Regional Agenda for Action, the Secretariat has focussed many of SPAW's activities in support of ICRI objectives in light of its strong and direct linkages to the SPAW Protocol. In this context, since 1995, ICRI-related activities have been a major component of the SPAW Regional Programme. The Secretariat presented the Regional Report for ICRI on the Wider Caribbean Region, (document UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.3) which was presented at the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) in Townsville, Australia 23-26 November 1998. The report contains a comprehensive overview of the major activities implemented in the Wider Caribbean by Governments, UNEP-CEP and other organizations since 1995, in support of ICRI's objectives. This presentation included an evaluation of those activities implemented by CEP, in particular the UNEP/USAID regional project on sustainable coastal tourism (Caribbean Environmental Network-CEN Project) which emanated from ICRI's Regional Agenda for Action, and which was recently finalized. This project was highlighted by the Secretariat during its presentation due to the positive impacts of this 3-year project, including a number of innovative and strategic partnerships developed with Governments, academic institutions, NGOs and the private sector during its implementation. In particular, successful partnerships with the Caribbean Hoteliers Association and its Caribbean Alliance for Action (CHA/CAST) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) were mentioned as having strategic importance. It was noted that the project resulted in a great number and variety of useful outputs and products, which had been made available to each participant through a CD-ROM. The Secretariat also informed the Meeting about ongoing activities in support of ICRI, in particular their efforts to organize coral reef monitoring groups to assist countries and facilitate their participation in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCMRN) of ICRI, as well as about the upcoming meeting of the Co-ordinating and Planning Committee (CPC) of ICRI to be convened in Guadeloupe, 27-29 October 1999. In this context, the Secretariat encouraged the Meeting to provide inputs and ideas for ensuring that the CPC meeting serves to highlight the main successes and issues for the region regarding coral reef management.

70. The Delegate from France noted the comprehensive report provided by the Secretariat and that the new website for ICRI is <http://www.environnement.gouv.fr/icri/>. He also called attention to the Renewed Call to Action of ICRI which had been submitted by the Secretariat as an information document.

71. Regarding the CPC Meeting in Guadeloupe in October 1999, the Secretariat emphasized that this will be the first time that this meeting will be held in the Caribbean and as such noted the tremendous opportunity for Governments and NGOs of the WCR to promote activities in the Region. The Secretariat will assist with logistical and technical support to the extent possible for this meeting and invited countries and NGOs to provide information to CAR/RCU on their current coral reef activities, achievements, and priorities to be transmitted to the CPC members.

72. The Secretariat drew the Meeting's attention to ICRI's Renewed Call to Action in document (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.4) and asked for its endorsement. The Meeting agreed to endorse this document which updates the original Call to Action by Governments of the WCR at the last Meeting of ISTAC in 1995.

73. The Delegations thanked the Secretariat for its regional leadership in ICRI activities and asked the Secretariat to continue in this role. They also noted the Secretariat's success in attracting additional donors to activities in the region regarding ICRI and wished to provide special commendation in this regard. The Delegate from the USA commended the French Government as the new ICRI Secretariat and for its leadership in bringing the global body of ICRI to the regional level and in particular to the WCR.

**Agenda item 8: Review of the proposed 2000-2001 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme**

74. The Secretariat presented the proposed Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2000-2001 biennium, as contained in document UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/4. The Secretariat explained that this document was prepared based on inputs received from Governments and organizations, requested by the Secretariat for this purpose, as well as on an analysis of relevant ongoing initiatives of regional and global interest and achievements or shortcomings of previous SPAW projects. The Secretariat emphasized therefore, that the draft workplan and budget presented was only indicative of the planned activities for 2000-2001 and required inputs from the Meeting to ensure that the workplan reflected real needs and priorities for the governments, also taking into consideration the realities and limitations of the resources within the Secretariat and the Programme. Prior to the detailed discussion of the specific activities of the proposed workplan and budget, the Chairman invited the representative of the CITES Secretariat to make an intervention regarding CITES interests in strengthening its communication and collaboration with the SPAW Protocol Secretariat in the future.

75. The Observer from CITES noted that the CITES Secretariat has been specifically mandated by its Parties to advance three initiatives: 1) to explore closer collaboration with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and in particular with the Caribbean Environment Programme; 2) to identify the capacity building needs of SIDS, in particular in the Caribbean; and 3) to encourage the countries of the Caribbean to join CITES and to assist them in establishing the necessary legislative basis to enable their compliance. The aim of CITES, established twenty six years ago, is to ensure that international trade in species does not threaten their existence. There are one hundred and forty four (144) Parties to the Convention, covering nearly thirty eight thousand plants and animals (38,000) and co-ordinated by several separate Regions. Eleven (11) countries in the Caribbean Basin are Parties to CITES, though only Cuba has the adequate legislation to fully implement CITES. CITES is the only international convention that combines environmental and trade themes for sustainable use. These themes are linked through the regulation of trade, legally binding instruments, and national legislation.

76. The Observer from CITES noted the immediate need for capacity-building through bilateral training, technical assistance, and networking. He went further to note that it is clearly time to

provide a more direct link with the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol , but noted there are several barriers that must be bridged. In particular, in his analysis of the two agreements, he noted what appeared to be incompatibilities between the list of species of SPAW and CITES.

77. The Observer from CITES noted that these inconsistencies can and should be addressed and that the Secretariat of CITES is committed to working co-operatively with the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and SPAW Protocol and proposed three initiatives towards this end: 1) finalize a memorandum of co-operation between the two Secretariats; 2) move towards harmonizing the obligations of the Contracting Parties for the two treaties; and 3) CITES would like to contribute to the establishment of an effective conservation network for the Wider Caribbean Region, both nationally and regionally.

78. The Secretariat responded to this presentation and recognized that some inconsistencies may exist, but they do not make the two treaties incompatible. Furthermore, at the time of adoption of the SPAW Protocol they were totally consistent, but that CITES has evolved since that time, while SPAW has not yet entered into force. The Secretariat noted that these inconsistencies should be easily addressed once the SPAW Protocol enters into force and the Parties decide on any amendments or additions to the Annexes. The Secretariat also mentioned the importance CEP places on co-ordinating with CITES and looks forward to establishing the Memorandum of Co-operation with the CITES Secretariat, as well as having regional representation of CITES which could be facilitated by UNEP-CAR/RCU in Jamaica.

79. The Delegate from Venezuela asked that mainland countries also be included in these efforts between CITES and SPAW as during the presentation this did not appear to be the situation. The CITES representative clarified that the CITES Secretariat was specifically given a mandate to work with SIDS in the Caribbean, nonetheless his presentation and proposal does not exclude mainland Caribbean countries and therefore incorporates the entire WCR through the sub-region of work of CITES encompassing Central and South America and the Caribbean.

80. The Delegate from Cuba noted that SPAW does not cover all the aspects that may be covered by CITES (e.g., artificial reproduction) and that we should work in the coming years to make the SPAW Protocol consistent with these other aspects.

81. The Delegate from the Dominican Republic welcomed the commitment of the CITES Secretariat that will provide technical assistance for those countries which require updates to their legislation to respond to the obligations acquired under CITES.

82. In light of the discussions, the Chairman agreed to create an Ad Hoc working group, chaired by the Delegate from the Netherlands Antilles, to address these issues and recommend relevant actions for both Secretariats and the Governments. The report of this working group is appended to this Report as **Annex VI**.

83. The Meeting proceeded to provide comments, section-by-section, on the draft Workplan and Budget for 2000-2001, UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/4. With regard to the "Background" section of the document, the Meeting agreed that in this section of the document, the presentation of the SPAW Programme in general should be enhanced. In particular, placing emphasis on the relationship between the various activities of the Programme and the unique contribution that SPAW provides to biodiversity conservation through ICZM, MPAs, its ecosystem approach, capacity building and strategic partnerships. It was also agreed that the structure of the workplan would be revised before the next IGM to include the outputs expected from each activity.

84. Regarding Activity (a) on Programme Co-ordination, the following was proposed and agreed:

- i) To add an activity to undertake a legal analysis of CITES and SPAW obligations and the ways and means to achieve further harmonization. This will be undertaken as a joint effort between interested governments, both Secretariats and relevant organizations such as IUCN, CSI, ECCN, Monitor International and other NGOs.
- ii) To improve communications between SPAW Focal Points and the Secretariat and vice-versa, in particular through the development of a list server by UNEP-CAR/RCU. The Delegates agreed to assist at the national level in the nomination of SPAW Focal Points for these countries which have not done so, as well as with improving communications from their Governments to the Secretariat.
- iii) To specifically include the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) as one of the organizations to emphasize co-ordination, as well as with the regional Meso-American Barrier Reef Initiative.
- iv) That in addition to the brochure on the SPAW Protocol, other mechanisms be considered by the Secretariat to further promote SPAW and its objectives such as public awareness activities.
- v) That a specific paragraph be added by the Secretariat highlighting the linkages between the LBSMP and SPAW Protocols and their activities under the framework of the CEP.
- vi) That the Secretariat, in collaboration with interested governments and organizations, and to the extent possible, undertake a general analysis of the work of the Programme during the last 10 years, its strengths and weaknesses, including the success and shortcomings of the ISTAC, in order to assist with a more effective operation of the Programme, and STAC, once the Protocol enters into force.

85. The Secretariat welcomed these important contributions to the Workplan and reminded participants that the Secretariat is limited by financial resources which in turn, will limit the accomplishment of new activities proposed unless additional resources are identified. The Secretariat noted that not all member governments are contributing to the Caribbean Trust Fund and most are behind in their contributions. Nonetheless, the Secretariat has done everything possible to co-ordinate donor funding to carry out these activities and believes that the CEP has been successful in this over the last few years. Despite this success, CEP must receive government contributions to enable the Secretariat to continue its work and enable it to continue

to attract donor funding. In this context, the Secretariat presented, at the request of the Meeting, a table outlining the present status of contributions from the Governments to the Caribbean Trust Fund.

86. After a number of useful interventions and suggestions, the Meeting agreed on the following changes for Activity (b) of the Workplan on Strengthening of Parks and Protected Areas:

- i) To emphasize, within the first objective of the Activity, the strengthening of communications between parks and protected areas within the Wider Caribbean Region;
- ii) To add an additional objective regarding the need to sensitize Governments on the importance of developing funding mechanisms and strategies for successful park and protected area management;
- iii) To consider, if funding is available, the convening of a small workshop to assist with the development of the guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas to be listed under the Protocol once it enters into force. A number of Governments offered to provide technical assistance in this regard, namely the Governments of Cuba and France (through the SPAW RAC). It was also agreed that as a cost saving measure, the proposed workshop for the CaMPAM network in 2000-2001 could be used for this purpose.
- iv) That criteria for the operations of the small grants fund for the CaMPAM network be developed as soon as possible by the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Partners. It was also agreed that among the potential needs to be addressed under the small grants, development of sustainable community projects and personnel exchange be specifically included in addition to those already noted in the draft Workplan presented to the Meeting.
- v) That the CaMPAM network works toward 'twinning' and mentoring between MPAs in the region, as well as towards general guidelines for sharing databases and technical studies. The government of Cuba offered technical assistance in this regard.
- vi) That countries convene meetings of park managers from parks in the watersheds affecting marine protected areas, to ensure that their conclusions and recommendations are presented to the next workshop of the CaMPAM network, to contribute towards building linkages between land-based activities and the management of marine and coastal protected areas.
- vii) To reflect in the workplan and budget, as appropriate, the proposal from the Secretariat to provide access on a regional basis to training and technical assistance to countries for the application of the funding guide once it is finalized in late 1999 after the Intergovernmental Meeting of CEP.
- viii) To add an activity, without budget implications, to ensure a co-ordinated promotion of protected areas of the region at the international level, utilizing mechanisms such as, the upcoming World Congress of the IUCN in 2000, the Coral Reef Symposium in Bali in 2000 and the World Parks Congress in 2002. To this end, it was agreed that this will require mostly the work from Governments which should ensure that information about their most successful protected areas is featured at these and other relevant events.

- ix) Regarding the budget for this activity, it was agreed that although recognizing the financial limitations and realities of the Programme, the budget for CaMPAM small grants fund should be increased an additional US\$20,000 per year to be raised by the Secretariat if possible. It was also agreed that relevant NGOs could play an active role in contributing to this fund in-kind and in cash, as appropriate.
- x) To consider incorporating activities to address marine zoning, in particular for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable fisheries and to address the impacts of land-based sources of marine pollution on MPAs. To this end, the following specific activities on sustainable fisheries were proposed:
  - Inventory of no-take areas in the region, closed fisheries seasons, their effectiveness and linkages to the MPA database. (Funding required: US\$40,000 for 2000-2001).
  - Develop guidelines for assessing socioeconomic impacts of no-take reserves based on regional experience, including a small workshop. (Funding required: US\$50,000 in 2001).
  - Expand dialogue between fisheries, fishers, and MPA managers through the CaMPAM network.

87. The Observer from The Nature Conservancy expressed that they accept the challenge to NGOs to assist with regional SPAW activities especially as they relate to:

- i) providing training materials for the marine protected area managers network (CaMPAM);
- ii) exploring the expansion of TNC regional training activities and CaMPAM managers exchanges;
- iii) providing more information on fisheries no-take zones;
- iv) exploring greater dialogue between the fisheries community and the marine protected areas community, perhaps with the assistance of the Greater Caribbean Gulf and Fisheries Institute;
- v) assisting with GEF proposals related to SPAW activities;
- vi) finally, TNC will be glad to assist the Secretariat in the identification of additional donors, both public and private, including the possible matching of the GEF Small Grants Fund, the new SPAW small grants fund, the involvement of new foundations, and the organization of donor meetings where representative CaMPAM managers can present regional and national funding proposals.

88. Regarding Activity (c) on Training in Protected Areas and Wildlife Management, the Secretariat clarified that the resources from UNEP's Environment Fund (EF) for this activity were coming from the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) global project, which UNEP administers directly. It was noted that this clarification will be reflected in the revised workplan to be presented for adoption at the IGM.

89. A number of delegations provided useful contributions to assist the Secretariat in the development and implementation of this Activity. In particular, the Cuban Delegation offered to assist through courses or workshops that they have already planned for 2000 on protected areas and wildlife management, namely in spiny lobster fisheries management and mangrove

ecosystems management and rehabilitation. Cuba will make the courses available to regional participants to be funded through the Programme or other sources.

90. The Delegate from Guatemala also offered support of his agency, through the capacity training centre of CONAP, to help strengthen this activity of SPAW. He noted, however, that the training should be made available to park rangers in addition to managers and that the courses should address the legal issues of protected area management.

91. In light of the number of interventions from Governments regarding the possible in-kind support to this activity, it was agreed that Governments will compile a list of their national training programmes relevant to protected area and wildlife management with the help of SPAW Focal Points, which should be transmitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

92. Regarding Activity (d) on Conservation of Species, the Delegate from Cuba expressed her Government's willingness and expertise to participate in the development of the regional guidelines for sea turtle management, as well as the management plan for queen conch.

93. A number of delegations, including those from Jamaica and the USA, also welcomed the initiative to continue working on the development of the queen conch management plan in collaboration with relevant organizations such as the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council and Caribbean Fisheries Resources Assessment and Management Programme (CFRAMP).

94. The Meeting agreed that the workplan should differentiate specifically between recovery plans and activities for sea turtles and manatees and that any savings from the regional project on manatees be considered for supporting implementation of activities contained in the national manatee recovery plans.

95. The Meeting also agreed to include an activity in this component of SPAW to initiate the collection of information on spawning areas with the assistance of relevant organizations and based on the availability of funding.

96. The delegates of IFAW and Monitor International expressed their continued support to the Programme in the area of education and public awareness and announced the provision of matching funds for 2000-2001 in this regard.

97. With regard to Activity (e) on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Major Ecosystems, a number of comments were provided to improve the scope of this activity.

98. It was recommended that special attention be given within the activity to other ecosystems in addition to coral reefs, namely to mangroves. In this regard, a general diagnostic based on existing information on mangrove states in the region and their management was suggested as a possible activity for which funding should be sought.

99. The Delegate from Guatemala also requested that the Secretariat ensure that in the development of standards for sustainable tourism, other inputs be taken into consideration in addition to relevant Partners such as CTO, CHA and IUCN. The Delegate suggested that the inputs from local communities in the region be taken into consideration as well. Regarding capacity-building in the area of sustainable tourism, it was recommended to include capacity-building for the preparation and implementation of programmes on community tourism.

100. The Delegate from Trinidad and Tobago noted that in light of the importance of land-based impacts on coral reefs, it is necessary to mobilize political will to address this issue, in particular regarding squatting and forest destruction. He proposed that if funding becomes available, a review paper should be prepared by the Secretariat on successful examples of co-management of land, for presentation to policy and decision-makers through one of the next Intergovernmental Meetings of CEP.

101. With regard to the proposed activities on coral reef monitoring, and with a view to maximizing impact, TNC recommended that the Programme consider dedicating greater efforts and support to regional monitoring activities that can enhance the work of a regional monitoring network, rather than supporting efforts to monitor specific sites. To this end, the following activities were suggested for consideration by the Secretariat and Governments as appropriate and if funding were available:

- i) compiling information on ongoing monitoring programmes (sites, protocols, period of time in operation, periodicity) using existing information, including the review undertaken recently by a NOAA meeting in Hawaii (June 1999);
- ii) facilitating the integration of national STACs within the framework of the GCRMN of ICRI; and
- iii) supporting the establishment of subregional STACs or nodes and their participation in the GCRMN.

#### **Agenda item 9: Other business**

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

103. The Observer from CSI, as a spokesperson for the NGOs, recognized the importance of the ratification and implementation of the SPAW Protocol and its associated Annexes, noted the NGO community commitment to active participation and technical assistance in the Programme. In addition, the Observer read a statement thanking the Government of Cuba for its hospitality and commended the Secretariat on its successful implementation of the SPAW Protocol activities. The complete statement was provided to the Secretariat and is appended to this report as **Annex V**.

104. The Delegate from the USA requested a decision that would reflect the Meeting participants' appreciation of the Secretariat's strong leadership during the last four years of



financial crisis and that would endorse the unique contribution that SPAW is now making to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in the region through the current and proposed biennium. The Delegate also asked that the Secretariat continue to look for a diverse base of donors when raising funds for the Programme, including assistance from member Governments in the fundraising process.

105. Activities suggested for the Secretariat include creation of a list server; completion of the list of Focal Points; and consultation with Governments in the interim period between STAC meetings. The Delegate from the USA noted that the Secretariat has developed a new, more focussed SPAW Programme and suggested that the RCU develop a more precise presentation of the Programme to promote this regional catalytic role.

106. The Observer from ECCN recommended that the Secretariat prepare a document that would analyze the successes and/or shortcomings of the Programme as we move from ISTAC to STAC with the imminent entry into force of the Protocol.

107. The Secretariat referred to the recommendation of the USA and the way in which the Secretariat should implement SPAW and that each Party must play a role. The Secretariat is playing its role and asks that Parties do the same through the Focal Points. In this manner, the Governments and the Secretariat can have a closer relationship. The Secretariat also indicated that this would also serve to foster improved relationships with the NGO community.

#### **Agenda item 10: Adoption of the report of the Meeting**

108. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the draft report of the Meeting (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/5). The Meeting adopted the Report with amendments as reflected in this document.

#### **Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting**

109. The Meeting was closed on Friday, 6 August 1999 at 8:00 p.m., by Mr. Antonio Perera, from the Government of Cuba and Chairperson of the Meeting, and by the Secretariat. In his closing remarks, Mr. Perera thanked all the participants for the positive and productive atmosphere in which they conducted their deliberations and for the very useful inputs provided to the SPAW Workplan 2000-2001. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the interpreters and translators, as well as thanking all the staff from Cuba and from the Secretariat for their efforts and hard work for the successful convening of the meeting.

110. Mr. Nelson Andrade, Co-ordinator of UNEP-CAR/RCU, expressed his deepest gratitude to the Cuban Government for their support to the Meeting, and to the Delegates and Observers for their active participation and useful contributions to the Meeting. He recognized that although the Secretariat had advanced and made progress with the implementation of the SPAW Programme, it was necessary to have the continued support and inputs from Governments. In closing, he noted with particular appreciation the work of all the staff of the National Centre of

Protected Areas (CNAP) under the leadership of Mr. Antonio Perera and of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA).

## **ANNEX I / ANNEXE 1/ANNEXO 1**

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## **ANNEX II**

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Organization of the Meeting
  - a) Rules of Procedure
  - b) Organization of the work
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Evaluation of projects and activities implemented under the scope of the SPAW Regional Programme
6. Status of implementation of the revised 1998-1999 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme
7. The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its implementation in the Wider Caribbean Region
8. Review of the proposed 2000-2001 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme
9. Other business
10. Adoption of the report of the Meeting
11. Closure of the Meeting

## ANNEX III

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

#### Working Documents

UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/1	Agenda
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/2	Annotated Agenda
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/3	Status of Implementation of the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) and Revised 1998-1999 Workplan and Budget (Draft)
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/4	Workplan and Budget for the SPA Regional Programme for the 2000-2001 biennium (Draft)
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/5	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPA)

#### Information Documents

UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.1	List of Documents
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.2	List of Participants
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.3	Caribbean Regional Report for the Tropical Americas on Activities and Programmes Relevant to the International Coral Reef Initiative. International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium Conference, Townsville, Australia, 23-26 November 1998 (English only)
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.4	Renewed Call to Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

- UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.5 Funding Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean: A Guide for Managers and Conservation Organizations (English only)
- UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.6 Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena, 1983) and its Protocols, Including the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)(English, Spanish)
- UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.7 Marine Mammals of the Wider Caribbean: A Review of their Conservation Status (Prepared by Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network and International Fund for Animal Welfare)
- UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.8 Co-operative Linkages in Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Convention (English, Spanish)
- UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.9 Wider Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network (CaMPAM) Briefing Paper (English only)
- UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.10 Coral Reefs. Twentieth Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 1-5 February 1999, Agenda item 12 (Annex I – Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its Twentieth Session , 23-26 November 1998, Townsville, Australia (English only)
- UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.11 Proceedings of the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) (English only)
- UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.12 Evaluation of Caribbean Experiences in Participatory Planning and Management of Marine and Coastal Resources, (English only)
- UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.13 Informe de Venezuela para la Cuarta Reunión del Comité Asesor Científico y Técnico Interino (ISTAC) del Protocolo Relativo a las Areas y Flora y Fauna Silvestres Especialmente Protegidas en la Región del Gran Caribe La Habana, Cuba, 3-6 de agosto de 1999 (Spanish only)



UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.14	Protocole à la Convention de Carthagène relatif aux zones et à la vie sauvage spécialement protégées dans la région des Caraïbes (Spaw): Contribution des départements d'outre-mer français (French only)
UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.15	Jamaica's Progress Report to the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Interim and Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, Cuba, 3-6 August, 1999 (English only)
UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.16	Communication sur le Centre d'Activités Régional Antilles-Guyane. Quatrième réunion du CCSTI au protocole SPAW, Cuba, 3-6 août 1999 (French only)
UNEP/CZMC, 1998	Report of the Experts Consultation to Review and Finalize Materials for Marine Protected Area Training in the Wider Caribbean Region, Kingston, 9-11 December 1998 (English only)
UNEP(WATER)/CAR IG.13/INF.7	Programmatic Linkages for the Wider Caribbean Region between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols
UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/INF.8	Protected Areas Training Programme for the Wider Caribbean Region - Multiplying Management Skills
UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19 / 6	Report of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Kingston, 11-3 October 1995
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Manual for Sand Dune Management in the Wider Caribbean (OECS )(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (English only)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	The Importance of Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Benefits to the Tourism Sector (CEHI)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (English only)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Estrategia Nacional de Turismo – Republica Dominica (SURENA)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (Spanish only)

UNEP/USAID, 1999	Why Treat Wastewater? Environmental, Health and Legal Considerations. The Importance of Effective Wastewater Treatment & Disposal – Benefits to Hotels (CEHI)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (English only)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Environmental Management Toolkit for Caribbean Hoteliers (CAST)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (English only)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Sewage Treatment Operators Manual for the Caribbean Region (CEHI)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (English only)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) Training Manual (CCUNRM / Seagrant)(UNEP/USAID CEN Project Caribbean Environmental Network CD-ROM)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Tourist Design Facilities Training Manual (CAST)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Improving Training and Public Awareness on Caribbean Coastal Tourism (Panos Institute)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (English only)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Waste Management Training Manual (CEHI)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Caribbean Action for Sustainable Tourism Environmental Action Plan Manual (CAST)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (English only)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Trends in Hotel Certification & Rating Programs – guidelines for the Caribbean (CAST)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (English only)
UNEP/USAID, 1999	Technical Resource Directory for Caribbean Hoteliers (CAST)(Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project CD-ROM) (English only)

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- UNEP, 1995 Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus* . CEP Technical Report No. 35
- UNEP (OCA)/CAR WG.11 / 7 Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW), French Guiana, 3-5 May 1993
- UNEP, 1993 Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for St. Vincent and the Grenadines (prepared by WIDECAST) CEP Technical Report No. 27 (English only)
- UNEP, 1993 Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for St. Lucia (prepared by WIDECAST) CEP Technical Report No. 26 (English only)
- UNEP, 1993 Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Aruba (prepared by WIDECAST) CEP Technical Report No. 25 (English only)
- UNEP, 1993 Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Suriname (prepared by WIDECAST) CEP Technical Report No. 24 (English only)
- UNEP (OCA)/CAR WG.5 / 1 First Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW), Kingston, 4-8 May 1992
- UNEP, 1992 Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Belize (prepared by WIDECAST) CEP Technical Report No. 18 (English only)
- UNEP, 1992 Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for St. Kitts and Nevis (prepared by WIDECAST) CEP Technical Report No. 17 (English only)

- UNEP, 1992 Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Antigua and Barbuda (prepared by WIDECAS<sup>T</sup>) CEP Technical Report No. 16 (English only)
- UNEP, 1992 Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for British Virgin Islands (prepared by WIDECAS<sup>T</sup>) CEP Technical Report No. 15 (English only)
- UNEP, 1992 Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Netherlands Antilles (prepared by WIDECAS<sup>T</sup>) CEP Technical Report No. 11 (English only)
- 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, Kingston, 10-11 June 1991
- UNEP, 1990 Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region, Kingston, 15-18 January 1990
- UNEP (OCA)/CAR WG.4/4 Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts for the Development of Annexes to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region, Martinique, 5-8 November 1990
- UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/INF.4 Regional Agenda for Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative
- UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/INF.12 Call to Action – International Coral Reef Initiative Workshop, Dumagate, the Philippines, 29 May – 2 June 1995
- UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/INF.13 Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*): the Need for Caribbean-Wide Management (English only)

## ANNEX IV

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

#### The Meeting:

**Having examined** *the Status of Implementation of the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and Revised 1998-1999 Workplan and Budget (Draft)* (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/3) and the *Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2000-2001 Biennium (Draft)* (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/4) and the relevant supporting documents *Funding Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean: A Guide for Managers and Conservation Organizations*” (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.5); *Renewed Call to Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)* (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.4) and *Marine Mammals of the Wider Caribbean: A Review of their Conservation Status* (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.7; and

**Taking into account** the Decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan and Special Meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (Kingston, 9-12 June 1997) (UNEP, 1997).

#### Recommends:

1. The development of an improved evaluation method for the SPAW Programme to focus on more direct measurement of Programme impacts at the national level and with the active and regular feedback that must be provided by governments and their Focal Points.
2. To approve the development of a Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region with special emphasis on education and research.
3. That governments and UNEP’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) take the recommendations of ISTAC and the 2000-2001 programme of work of SPAW to the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-sessional Committee of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Lima, Peru, 2 October 1999, for incorporation into their four-year work programme which should place emphasis on support to protected areas.
4. The endorsement of the Renewed Call to Action for ICRI and to incorporate the appropriate elements into the 2000-2001 SPAW Workplan.
5. To the CITES Secretariat to evaluate the possibility and convenience of establishing an office or sub-regional representation for the Wider Caribbean Region, taking into consideration the interest expressed by the Meeting.

6. That governments develop mechanisms to improve communication among their Focal Points to CEP, SPAW, GEF, CITES, CBD, etc. and between SPAW Focal Points and the Secretariat, and managers of marine protected areas, and to ensure that SPAW Focal Points are nominated expeditiously for those countries that have not yet done so.
7. That the SPAW Programme further elaborate its unique contribution within the region, and intensify its efforts to identify and implement cooperative activities with the CBD, as offered by the March 1997 Memorandum of Cooperation and develop comparable cooperative relationships with other conventions (eg. Ramsar, CITES and CMS), organizations and programmes in order to maximize efforts and resources.
8. Greater involvement of governments with regards to programme financing by honouring the contribution to the Caribbean Trust Fund, providing in-kind contributions, such as hosting of meetings and providing other support as appropriate, which could be deducted from their arrears to the CTF.
9. That species recovery activities receive greater attention and funding in the 2000-2001 Workplan.
10. That the Secretariat expands the review of the document UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.5 on funding guidelines for protected areas to include the CaMPAM network and regional NGOs and to ask the SPAW Focal points to facilitate review in their own countries including local NGOs. This review should be completed and comments forwarded to the Secretariat or The Nature Conservancy for incorporation prior to its presentation to the next Intergovernmental Meeting of CEP in December 1999.
11. That the Secretariat establishes a list serve of SPAW Focal Points to facilitate communication.
12. The development of the draft guidelines for evaluation of protected areas for SPAW listing should not await entry into force of the Protocol, but should be initiated and reviewed as soon as possible as resources are available.
13. That the Secretariat further develop the SPAW Programme to address the role of zoning and regional planning to enhance sustainable fisheries through no-take areas as appropriate; facilitate improved watershed management to minimize the regional impacts of land-based activities on MPAs; identify potential linkages between the SPAW and LBS Protocols, including preliminary identification of land-based sources Class 1 waters; and to support development of a regional system of representative sites of MPAs to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable use.

14. That, if resources are available in 2000, the Secretariat undertake an evaluation of the successes and shortcomings of the SPAW Programme during the past 10 years, as well as the effectiveness of ISTAC to date, with a view to identifying useful lessons and to enhance the role of the STAC, CAR/RCU and SPAW Programme in the implementation of the SPAW Protocol in the future.
15. That the governments send information to the Secretariat on the national training opportunities relevant to SPAW in their respective countries for which international participation is welcome. This information will be collated by the Secretariat and made available to the governments through the SPAW Focal Points.
16. That the governments address the issues regarding the relationship between CITES and SPAW through the following process:
  - i) Maintaining the Ad Hoc working group established by this Meeting to review linkages and compatibilities or potential incompatibilities between CITES and SPAW and elaborate specific issues by 20 September 1999 to be forwarded to the Secretariat. This review should take into consideration existing documents already prepared by the Secretariat for previous meetings, in particular documents UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/4 and UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/INF.11.
  - ii) The CITES and SPAW Secretariats should prepare a technical document providing a legal interpretation of Articles 11 and 25 of SPAW and other relevant issues including those issues raised in Annex VI to this Report.
  - iii) Based on this analysis, the SPAW Secretariat should consult with the Parties to determine their concerns, if any, about the Protocol.
  - iv) The SPAW Secretariat should provide a synthesis of these comments to the Parties for consideration at the next Intergovernmental Meeting in December 1999.
17. That governments make special effort to contribute in cash and in-kind to the SPAW Programme, including financial contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) to ensure and facilitate the implementation of activities as identified for this Meeting.
18. The comments and inputs as provided by this meeting on the draft Workplan and Budget of SPAW for 2000-2001 (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/4) and which are reflected under Agenda Item 8 of this Report, be incorporated by the Secretariat as appropriate in a revised Workplan and Budget for SPAW to be presented for approval to the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting of CEP in December 1999,



taking into consideration the need to maintain realistic budgets but also adequate for the tasks proposed.

19. That the Secretariat's strong leadership during the last four years of financial crisis be recognized, and to endorse the unique contribution that the SPAW Programme is now making to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in the region through the current and proposed Workplan and budget.

## ANNEX V

Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC)  
To the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA  
W) In the Wider Caribbean Region

Havana, Cuba, 3 to 6 August 1999

### Statement by NGOs

The representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) who have participated in the Fourth Meeting of the SPAW ISTAC wish to express their thanks to the Government of Cuba for the excellent hospitality that has been extended to us throughout our stay in the beautiful city of Havana.

We congratulate the Chairman for creating a pleasant and productive environment throughout the meeting.


And we applaud the outstanding achievements of the Secretariat of the SPAW Protocol, especially in light of its limited resources. In addition to the activities and results which have been carefully documented by the Secretariat, we take note of the exceptional atmosphere of cooperation which the Secretariat has promoted with the NGO community throughout the Wider Caribbean.

Recognizing that *what* is accomplished is often determined by *how* activities are carried out, by providing "a seat at the table" for NGOs, the CAR-RCU has challenged us to continue to work diligently, in partnership with UNEP, towards the successful implementation of the SPAW Protocol and to engage ourselves more actively in the final negotiations for the LBS Protocol.


  
Cetacean Society International

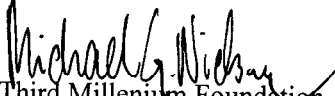
  
Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network

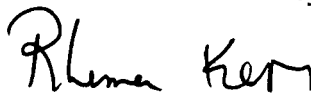
  
International Fund for Animal Welfare

  
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

  
Monitor International

  
The Nature Conservancy

  
Third Millennium Foundation

  
WIDECAST

## ANNEX VI

### MINUTES OF THE WORKING GROUP RELATED TO THE RELATION BETWEEN CITES AND SPAW

HAVANA, 5 AUGUST 1999  
13:30 HRS TO 14:30 HRS.

The following countries were represented:

BAHAMAS, BELIZE, CAYMAN ISLANDS, COLOMBIA, CUBA, DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC, FRANCE, JAMAICA, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES,  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, UNITED STATES.

The following NGOs were present:

CSI, ECCN, IFAW, MONITOR INTERNATIONAL, NATURE CONSERVANCY,  
WIDECAST. The CITES Secretariat was present as an Observer.

The Chair of the Working Group was represented by the Netherlands Antilles.

The following summarizes the statements presented by the different representatives:

Netherlands Antilles: There must be positions taken by nations to recommend to SPAW Protocol and CITES. In addition, the Annexes are getting problematic.

CITES: The CITES Secretariat clarified that under CITES sovereign nations could apply stricter domestic measures to any taxon listed on the CITES Appendices. Dr. Armstrong concluded that no incompatibilities in fact existed between the Appendices of CITES and the SPAW Protocol if the Appendices of SPAW were intended to detail the taxa for which stricter measures were being proposed. Dr. Armstrong suggested that this was an important issue that needed to be clarified by the Secretariat of the SPAW Protocol.

Netherlands Antilles: As an example of the different level of protection under SPAW and CITES, small cetaceans are listed in App. II of CITES and therefore able to be traded commercially, while all cetaceans are listed in Annex II where no taking or trade is allowed. SPAW is a stricter measure, requiring each member nation to be legally bound, therefore choosing not to take or trade. Here lies the basis for clarification for those nations that are Parties to CITES and are also or plan to be SPAW members.

Does a nation restrict itself from trading CITES species while being a SPAW member ?

Does a SPAW Party need to review its status if it wishes to continue trading in CITES species?

ECCN: Representative presented to the group information related to two information documents at the Third ISTAC Meeting of Kingston, in 1995.

These documents are:

UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/INF.4: Relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)

UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/INF.11: Comparison document on the Appendices of CITES and the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol.

It is very probable that these issues were already discussed at previous meetings and NGO urges the Chair to provide members of the Working Group with copies of documents.

IFAW: The reason that all cetaceans are listed in App. I and App. II of CITES has to do with the way they were listed in the International Convention Regulating Whales [ICRW] of 1946.

CITES: It would be helpful to have itemized those non-CITES species in the Wider Caribbean Region with those that SPAW wishes to protect.

France: It is the understanding of the delegate that SPAW is more strict than CITES.

TNC: Currently, there are problems at the national level due to SPAW and local legislation, like in the case of Mexico where SPAW has not been ratified and has been superseded by other internal legislation.

Bahamas: At present the SPAW Protocol allows for a nation to take a reservation if it wishes. The basis is for artisanal fisheries.

Cuba: A workshop needs to be held to discuss the Annexes and how they relate to the different Conventions.

United States: Article 11 of the Act of 1990, spells out scientific, educational and technical purposes. In addition, Art. 11 sect. 4 [d] : Party may enter reservation for particular species by notifying the Depositary in writing within 90 days of the vote of the Parties.

TNC: It is incumbent upon the Secretariat to do the legal background check on the incompatibility issue before continuing with the task. In addition, the representative requested for all persons present to give their e-mail addresses in order to continue the exchange of ideas based on the topic of discussion.

Cuba: The Cuban Delegation expressed the concern about species that are listed in CITES as well as SPAW and the use of certain species by Party nations. Several examples were presented, such as: captive breeding, ranching, artificial propagation, the use of parts and derivatives. In the case of trade within the CITES Convention, these activities are legal. On the other hand, these activities are prohibited by the SPAW Protocol.

In addition, it is highly possible that species in one country are abundant and do not present a danger while the same species is endangered in a neighboring nation. Again, the SPAW Protocol limits the use of the species.

SPAW is an instrument to complement CITES, but it does not mean that it is a straight jacket for a country that wishes to legally trade in accordance with the CITES Convention.

WIDECAST: The representative of this NGO made the statement regarding the right of a nation that wants to join SPAW, to take if it wishes, a reservation and request clarification from the Secretariat on the time-frame allowed for the country to make such reservation known.

Bahamas: Again the representative from the Bahamas indicated to the group that the SPAW Protocol allows for a Party nation to take reservations.

CITES: Dr. Armstrong, made reference to Article 25 of the SPAW Protocol, which states that nothing in the SPAW Protocol would affect the rights and obligations of the Parties regarding CITES and CMS

Cuba: The Cuban representative stated that Article 25, provides exemptions under SPAW. The Article in fact gives any Party that is also a CITES Party nation all the rights to trade under the CITES rules. It is an issue of sovereignty that each party member has.

United States: The U.S. Delegate proposed for the Working Group to come up with a final recommendation to the Secretariat by November 1, 1999. In addition, prepare a set of questions based on today's discussion for the Secretariat to request a legal opinion on the issues and lastly, to encourage the Secretariat to have a response prior to the IGM.

Attached is a list of participants by Country and Organization with their respective e-mail addresses.

### Participants of the Ad Hoc Working Group on CITES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COUNTRY/NGO</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
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## ANNEX VII

### List of Acronyms

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CAR/RCU	Regional Co-ordinating Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	Caribbean Conservation Association
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment & Development
CEN	Caribbean Environment Network
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CEPNET/IDB	Caribbean Environment Programme Network/Inter-American Development Bank
CFRAMP	Caribbean Fisheries Resources Assessment Programme
CHA/CAST	Caribbean Hotel Association/Caribbean Action for Sustainable Tourism
CITES	Convention for International Trade of Endangered Species
CITMA	Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, Cuba
CNAP	National Centre of Protected Areas, Cuba
CPC	Co-ordinating and Planning Committee of the International Coral Reef Initiative
CSI	Cetacean Society International
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organization
DFID	Department for International Development, UK
DNP	National Directorate of Parks, Dominican Republic
ECCN	Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network
EF	Environment Fund of United Nations Environment Programme
EMA	Environmental Management Authority, Trinidad and Tobago
ENCORE	Environment and Coastal Resources Project
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IGM	Inter-governmental Meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme's Caribbean Environment Programme
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IPID	Integrated Planning and Institutional Development

ISTAC	Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
ITMEMS	International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IYOR	International Year of the Reef
LBSMP	Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NMFS	National Marine and Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECS/NRMU	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States/ Natural Resources Management Unit
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
ROLAC	United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SIDS/POA	Small Island Developing States/Programme of Action
SPAW	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STRAP	Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Recovery Network