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

Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001

REPORT TO

**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY (CBD)**

FROM

**THE 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 (SPA
W)
(February 2001)**

**Report to
The Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)
from
The 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)**

1. This report was prepared by the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and submitted in February 2001 to the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as information for the Sixth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the CBD (Montreal, Canada March 2001).
2. The following are the main activities of the UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme for 2000-2001 and which are relevant to issues of the Jakarta Mandate and implementation of CBD's programme of work on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity:

Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

Coral Reef Management

3. The Caribbean Environment Programme and its Regional Co-ordinating unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU) continue to serve as the regional contact point for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).
4. Considerable progress has been made in the establishment of sub-regional nodes for coral reef monitoring under the framework of ICRI's Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). Sub-regional nodes for the Eastern and Southern Caribbean include approximately 15 countries. Other *de facto* sub-regional nodes exist under Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Initiative and the GEF project on Caribbean Planning Adaptation for Climate Change (CPACC). A major gap still exists for the UK territories to allow their active participation in the regional network. Data and information emanating from all these countries and their nodes is included in the Report 'Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2000' that was presented at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Bali, October 2000. The monitoring activities are designed by the nodes themselves and include any monitoring/assessment method of their choice. In this context, monitoring has been coordinated with other relevant programmes for the Wider Caribbean Region, such as Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity Program (CARICOMP), The Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA), Reef Check etc.

Coral Diseases

5. UNEP-CAR/RCU recently granted funding to CARICOMP to look at coral reef diseases in the Wider Caribbean, their occurrence and possible causes. The project is expected to be completed in 2001. The information gathered from the coral management activities will be valuable to the assessment and monitoring of coral bleaching.

Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution

6. Further to the adoption of the Protocol of the Cartagena Convention concerning Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities for the Wider Caribbean (LBS) in 1999, two medium size GEF projects are currently being implemented on reducing pesticide run-off in the Caribbean Sea and integrated management of watersheds and coastal areas in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean.

Information Systems for the Management of Marine and Coastal Resources (CEPNET)

7. CEPNET provides support to the countries of the region to develop their State of the Coasts Reports to be made available on the Internet. These reports now include environmental indicators, such as biodiversity.
8. The sub-programme also facilitates environmental assessment and strengthens the analytical capacities of the CAR/RCU to better support the environmental information management initiatives in the Wider Caribbean Region, and is to develop a web-based GIS database with UNEP-WCMC on Marine Protected Areas in the region. Further it supports the information technology aspects of the implementation of the SPAW and LBS Protocols through close collaboration with these other CEP sub-programmes.

Marine and Coastal Living Resources

Species Conservation

9. Public awareness materials on marine mammals have been developed and widely disseminated in collaboration with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network (ECCN) and the Mer Centre. A regional project includes the development of national manatee recovery plans and possible conservation activities in Colombia, Costa Rica, Belize, Mexico, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Similar sea turtle conservation activities are also being supported at the regional and national levels.

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

Training of Trainers Programme for Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management

10. As part of UNEP's International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) global project (Phase I) a comprehensive training programme for "trainers" and MPA personnel was successfully implemented. Two 2-week Training of Trainers course in MPA management were implemented and a total of twenty-six MPA managers from the region benefited. Participants were provided with the skills required to conduct training programmes in MPA in their own countries. Follow-up local training activities are currently being developed by the trained MPA managers for which technical assistance and funding is also being provided by UNEP-CAR/RCU.

Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network and Small Grants Fund

11. The existing network of marine protected area (MPA) managers (**CaMPAM**) for the Wider Caribbean has been reactivated with the launching of a Small Grants Fund, the MPA training programme (see above), the promotion of best management sites under ICRAN and the updating of the network list-server and MPA database.

Protected Areas and Self-financing

12. *'Funding Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean: Guide for Managers and Conservation Organizations'* is a compilation of regional and international experiences and general guidelines. It was designed to serve in the identification and implementation of funding mechanisms for protected areas and is currently being published in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Regional Activity Center (RAC) in Guadeloupe

13. In January 2000 a RAC was established on the island of Guadeloupe and hosted by the government of France to assist with the implementation of the SPAW Protocol. The missions of RAC are of two types:
 - scientific and technical - collection of information and providing expertise
 - communication - information dissemination, awareness and training.