



Benefits of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Especially (SPAW, 1990) to the Cartagena Convention (1983)



- **Only regional** legally binding **biodiversity** treaty for the Wider Caribbean
- Specific provision for conservation, regional cooperation, awareness, community participation and dissemination of best practices.
- Specific guidelines on protected areas and species conservation, serving to implement and meet the provisions of more complex treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Designed and developed **by** and **for** governments of the region, thus its relevance to regional issues and circumstances
- Supported by the SPAW sub-programme, a technical-operational programme, through which technical and financial assistance is provided to Parties to meet the objectives of the Protocol
- Protected Areas listed under the Protocol benefit from a regional cooperation programme
- **No direct financial implications** for Contracting Parties (as there is no requirement of financial contributions from the Parties)
- An opportunity for Signatory Governments to demonstrate their commitment to conservation to the international community and donors
- The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), established under the SPAW Protocol, also serves as an annual forum to discuss and build consensus on biodiversity issues of priority for the region, including those related to the other treaties, such as the CBD, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, etc.
- The Secretariat covers the cost of participation of all Parties to meetings of the Protocol (COP, STACs) and workshops of the SPAW Programme (on MPAs, species, conservation, trainings, coral reef management, etc.)
- Parties benefit from the existing cooperation agreements with the Secretariats of the CBD, the Ramsar, and the Bonn (CMS) Conventions
- Parties benefit from technical assistance from the Regional Activity Center (SPAW RAC), hosted by the Government of France in Guadeloupe



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