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

Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001

DRAFT

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean (SPAW), held in Kingston, 15-18 January 1990, adopted the SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 23 of the SPAW Protocol provides for the convening and functioning of the Meetings of the Parties. In light of the above, and in keeping with Decisions 14 and 17 taken by the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Sixth Contracting Parties Meeting to the Cartagena Convention (Kingston, 14-18 February 2000), this Meeting is being convened in Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001.
2. The present Meeting is convened by the Secretariat with the following objectives:
 - to review the work of ISTAC since its inception: primarily its major achievements and shortcomings;
 - to define the structure and scope of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPAW Protocol;
 - to review the scope of the SPAW Protocol and its relationship with the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA);

- to identify priorities for implementation by the Parties and the Secretariat following the entry into force of the Protocol, including priorities for the STAC; and
 - to review the proposed Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2002-2003 biennium.
3. The representatives of the Contracting Parties invited to the Meeting, are nominated by their respective governments. Additionally, representatives of Governments that are non-Contracting Parties and of international, regional, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations have been invited to attend the Meeting as Observers.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The Meeting will be opened by the Secretariat, on Monday, 24 September, at 10:00 a.m. in Havana, Cuba in the Conference Room of the Hotel Palco.

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

5. The Meeting will be invited to elect from among the participants the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons, and the Rapporteur of the Meeting.

Agenda item 3: Organization of the Meeting

- (a) Rules of procedure
6. The rules of procedure of the Governing Council for UNEP (UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3) will apply mutatis mutandis, for the conduct of the Meeting. A Credentials Committee will be established by the Meeting to review the credentials, which authorize the delegates to represent their Governments and organizations.
- (b) Organization of work
7. English, French and Spanish will be the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages will be provided for the Meeting. The working documents of the Meeting will be available in all the working languages.
8. The Secretariat proposes to convene the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of working groups, if necessary, which may be established by the Chairperson. No simultaneous interpretation will be available for the working groups.

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the Agenda

9. During the preparatory process for the convening of this Meeting, the Parties were requested by the Secretariat to provide inputs for the agenda, in particular items that were considered of priority importance for the development of the future work by the Parties and the STAC in the implementation of the SPAW Protocol.
10. The Meeting will be invited to adopt the Agenda of the Meeting prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of comments received from the Contracting Parties. The Provisional Agenda is contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 20/1.

Agenda item 5: Review of the work of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) since its inception (1992-2000)

11. The Secretariat will make the presentation on the "Evaluation of the Work of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC)" since the inception of the ISTAC in 1992, and as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 20/3.
12. The Meeting will be invited to comment on the activities implemented and to provide specific ideas for continuing and improving the work initiated by the ISTAC.

Agenda item 6: Structure and Scope of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPAW Protocol

13. The Secretariat will make a presentation on the proposed "Structure and Scope of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 20/4), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the provisions in Article 20 of the Protocol, as well as on information and experiences in relevant groups of related conventions. The Meeting will be invited to review this draft document and provide specific comments and recommendations.

Agenda item 7: Review of the Scope and Relationship of the SPAW Protocol with the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

14. This agenda item was specifically requested by the Parties to review progress made through the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its SBSTTA, which could assist in the future implementation of the SPAW Protocol.
15. The Secretariat will present a general overview of the work of SBSTTA since its inception and its relationship to SPAW objectives as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/5.
16. The Meeting will be requested to review this document and provide comments, in particular on how the achievements of the SBSTTA could be used in areas related to the

SPAW Protocol, as well as to look at opportunities for future linkages. During this review, the Meeting will be requested to consider as well, information documents UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/INF.4 and UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/INF.6 which are relevant to this agenda item.

Agenda item 8: Identification of priorities for the Parties and the Secretariat to be implemented following the entry into force of the Protocol

17. In keeping with the specific provisions contained in the Protocol relevant to the obligations of the Parties and the Secretariat once the Protocol entered into force, the Secretariat will present the list of required activities for the Parties and the Secretariat, extracted from the text of the Protocol and the Conferences of Plenipotentiaries of 1990 and 1991, as well as those proposed by the Parties in preparation for this Meeting (as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/6).
18. The Meeting will be invited to review these activities and prioritize them as appropriate for their implementation. These should also include the issues that the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol will have to address as a matter of priority at their First Meeting (Havana, 27-29 September 2001). Among the priorities for the First Meeting of STAC the following have been identified by the Contracting Parties in preparation for this Meeting and submitted to the Secretariat:
 - review of the criteria for the listing of species in the Annexes to the Protocol (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.23/4);
 - review and comment on a dolphinarium proposal to be presented by the Government of the Netherlands Antilles; and
 - issues relevant to the interpretation and harmonization of the provisions of the SPAW Protocol, in particular in the context of Articles 10, 11 and 25 (proposal by the Government of Cuba).
19. The Meeting will also be invited to present any other relevant issues not specifically contained in the Protocol but which might be required for the future implementation of the Protocol at the national or regional levels.

Agenda item 9: Review of the proposed 2002-2003 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme

20. The Secretariat will present the proposed 2002-2003 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme (contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/8) prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of ISTAC to the SPAW Protocol (Havana, Cuba, 3-6 August 1999), the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan and Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (Kingston, Jamaica, 14-18 February 2000) and the recommendations of the Thirteenth 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 Cartagena Convention (San Jose, Costa Rica, 9-13 July 2001).

21. During its presentation, the Secretariat will also make reference to the status of implementation of the SPAW Workplan and Budget 2000-2001 (contained in UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/5), as it provides useful information relevant to the activities being proposed for the upcoming biennium.
22. The Meeting will be invited to review and comment on the proposed activities for the SPAW Regional programme during 2002-2003, in particular the Meeting will be requested to pay particular attention to the following issues:
 - the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN): A Global Partnership for Coral Reefs (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/INF.5);
 - additional activities proposed under Agenda Item 8 which need to be incorporated into the 2002-2003 workplan and budget;
 - elements for the development of a marine mammal action plan for the Wider Caribbean, in keeping with Recommendation No. 2 of the Fourth Meeting of ISTAC and as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/INF.3; and
 - Report from the Government of France on the activities implemented by the Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for SPAW in Guadeloupe (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/INF.4).

Agenda item 10: Other Business

23. Participants of the Meeting will be invited to raise any other issue not covered by the preceding agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting.

Agenda item 11: Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

24. The Rapporteur of the Meeting will present the draft report of the Meeting (document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/7). The Meeting will be invited to adopt the report, with amendments and corrections to be introduced as appropriate during its adoption.

Agenda item 12: Closure of the Meeting

25. The Meeting is expected to be closed on Tuesday, 25 September 2001 at 5:00 p.m., by the Chairperson of the Meeting and the Secretariat.