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in the Wider Caribbean Region

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DRAFT

**Priorities for Implementation
by the Parties and the Secretariat
since the Entry into Force of the Protocol,
including Priorities for the STAC**

Draft

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I. Introduction

1. As the SPAW Protocol has entered into force, and the work of implementation is entering the next phase, it is necessary to review the decisions and recommendations of the four ISTAC meetings and the provisions of the Protocol itself in order to identify the priorities for implementation by the Parties and the Secretariat in the years to come.
2. The activities that follow have been identified from a review of the reports from the four previous meetings of the ISTAC, from the approved Workplans of the Caribbean Environment Programme since the Protocol was developed and from the text of the Protocol itself. No mention is made of activities already implemented or completed unless necessary. For further information on completed activities, see Status Report on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2000-2001, (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/5) for a status report on the SPAW Regional Programme.
3. The Secretariat is presenting herewith the main SPAW activities requiring implementation as the basis for review and comments by the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) with a view to identify the priority actions and make any pertinent modifications or additions.

II. Protected Areas

Guidelines and Criteria for the Listing of Protected Areas:

4. Article 21 of the Protocol requires the Parties to establish common guidelines and criteria for identification, selection, establishment and management of protected areas as well as for the provision of information. Since the first meeting of ISTAC, CEP member governments initiated the development of such guidelines which were finally approved by the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention at the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting and the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (1994) and subsequently published as CEP Technical Report No. 37 in 1996. It might be necessary for the Contracting Parties to SPAW to review and assess these 1996 guidelines through the STAC for their subsequent and final adoption.

5. Article 7 of the Protocol requires the Parties to establish a list of protected areas with a view to develop a cooperative programme and network of protected areas. In addition to the guidelines set forth in Article 21, additional general guidelines might be required for the evaluation of the protected areas to be listed under the Protocol.
6. Governments will be invited to nominate protected areas of regional concern to be included in the list of protected areas following the common guidelines developed for this purpose. If funding becomes available, a small workshop to assist with the development of these guidelines will be convened in collaboration with relevant governments and the SPAW-RAC (Workplan and Budget for CEP, 2000-2001).
7. Additionally the Parties, taking into account the guidelines and criteria formulated by the STAC as provided for in Article 21 are required to adopt and implement at the national level planning, management and enforcement measures for protected areas (Article 6).
8. The Parties are also required to compile comprehensive inventories of areas that contain rare or fragile ecosystems and species of fauna or flora that may qualify for listing as threatened according to established criteria, with a view to develop scientific, technical and management-oriented research on protected areas (Article 17).
9. The document UNEP(OCA)/CAR ISTAC1/INF.8 "Proposal for an Ecological Typology of Protected Areas in the Caribbean" should also be considered by the STAC and be further developed as necessary (First Meeting of ISTAC).

Actions with regard to Funding for Protected Areas

10. Following the adoption and publication of the "Funding Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean: A Guide for Managers and Conservation Organizations" (UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF. 5) in 2001, Parties, member governments and relevant organizations are encouraged to make use of this valuable tool as appropriate as it compiles very useful information for the generation of revenue by protected areas. The Secretariat will seek to provide access on a regional basis to training and technical assistance to protected areas for the application of the guidelines to generate funding for their management (Workplan and Budget for CEP, 2000-2001).

Activities with regard to Marine Zoning issues

11. Governments through ISTAC have recommended to further develop the SPAW Programme to address the role of zoning and regional planning to enhance sustainable fisheries through no-take areas as appropriate and facilitate improved watershed management to minimize the regional impacts of land-based activities on MPAs. This also seeks to identify potential linkages between the SPAW and the 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 (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC).

12. The specific activities to be implemented in this regard are contained in the Workplan and Budget of CEP for 2002-2003 (document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/8) for which the Secretariat is seeking funding.

Communication and Promotion

13. The existing network of marine protected areas (CaMPAM) is to be promoted by the Secretariat through the development of a brochure or pamphlet in CaMPAM for wide dissemination among the MPAs of the region, continued implementation of the Small Grants Fund (SGF) and the MPA Training of Trainers programme. As indicated in the document on the Evaluation of the ISTAC process (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/3), Parties and other member governments should take greater advantage of these mechanisms, currently underutilized for the benefit and strengthening of their MPAs. Governments, their MPAs and relevant organizations should be more actively involved in CaMPAM, contributing with information when appropriate, providing technical assistance as possible and assisting with the update and wide use of the MPA database. This database requires the active contribution from all governments and MPAs to ensure its currency and validity.
14. Governments have also emphasized through the ISTAC process the need to strengthen communications between protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region and to ensure a coordinated promotion of these areas at the international level, this includes working towards “twinning” and mentoring between MPAs (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC).

Collaborative Management

15. Through case studies and reviews, the effectiveness of collaborative management arrangements for marine and coastal protected areas is to be monitored throughout the region. Concrete evidence supporting the idea that cooperation is a more efficient arrangement is lacking. This activity will result in a series of documented case studies and guidelines on effective implementation of co-management arrangements and could include a review workshop (Workplan and Budget for CEP, 2000-2001).

III. Endangered and Threatened Species

Protection of Species in General

16. The issue of the update of the Annexes (listing and delisting) of the Protocol and their harmonization with listings of other relevant treaties such as CITES has been brought forward at previous meetings of ISTAC (First, Third and Fourth Meeting of the ISTAC). This issue is to be addressed by the Parties and the STAC process as necessary.

17. In this context, the existing criteria from 1990 when the Annexes were adopted for the selection and listing of the species within the Protocol might require review and modifications. The draft criteria is being presented to the First Meeting of STAC for review and recommendations as appropriate (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.23/4).

Migratory Species, in Particular Avifauna

18. Since the First Meeting of ISTAC Governments have requested that particular attention be given to migratory species conservation, in particular to migratory avifauna and waterfowl. Species listed in both the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) and the SPAW Protocol were considered of priority. (First and Second Meetings of ISTAC). Although substantive progress was made with the implementation of conservation activities for migratory species such as sea turtles, avifauna and waterfowl conservation activities have been rather limited and Parties and the STAC might require to address this issue as necessary.

Queen Conch and Spiny Lobster

19. The CEP was requested to address the management needs and trade aspects of *Strombus gigas* (Queen conch) as a matter of priority, collaborating with relevant bodies in order to develop a management strategy for the queen conch fishery (Third Meeting of the ISTAC). However, the Caribbean Fisheries Resources Assessment Programme (CFRAMP) and the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council have already been addressing this issue for the queen conch and the spiny lobster, thus only requiring for CEP to develop collaboration with these bodies to ensure coordination. Governments members of these programmes can assist with coordination (CEP Workplan and Budget 2000-2001).

Sea Turtles

20. The endangered status of sea turtles in the Wider Caribbean has been recognized by governments since the development of the Protocol. Through the SPAW Programme twelve national sea turtle recovery plans have been developed and conservation activities at the national and regional level have been supported in support of those plans. However, many countries still lack recovery plans and those which already have it must make an effort to implement them. The Secretariat in collaboration with governments and NGOs such as WIDECAST will continue to work in that regard (First to Fourth Meetings of ISTAC).

Manatees and other Marine Mammals

21. Following government requests through ISTAC a regional manatee management plan was developed in 1995 and its continued and active implementation is now required if the status of the species is to recover. Preparation of additional national recovery plans in interested and committed countries is necessary and the implementation of

relevant conservation activities as outlined in the national plans (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC).

22. Following the preparation of a background document on the general distribution and status of marine mammals in the Wider Caribbean, the Secretariat was requested to initiate the development of an action plan for marine mammals with special emphasis on education and research (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC). Progress made in this regard is being presented to this meeting for review and comments (document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/INF.3). Given recent developments in the region, this Meeting is also to consider the issue of dolphinariums, their status and impact on dolphin populations.

Coral Reefs

23. As documented in the Evaluation of ISTAC (document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/3) and the Status Report of Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2000-2001 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/5), activities on the conservation of coral reefs have received considerable attention through the SPAW Regional Programme in particular since the launching of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) (Third and Fourth Meetings of ISTAC). Concrete activities planned for the upcoming biennium are contained in the Workplan and Budget of CEP for 2002-2003 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/8). Many governments still require to place greater emphasis on the conservation and sustainable management of their coral reef ecosystems, in particular through the allocation of resources within their national environmental agendas and the development and enforcement of appropriate legislation and regulations.

Mangroves

24. Special attention needs to be given to mangrove conservation. A general diagnostic study based on existing information on mangrove status in the region and their management was requested but due to lack of funding this activity has not been implemented yet. When funding becomes available, assistance will be requested from Governments to supply relevant data and information to the Secretariat for this purpose. (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC).

Spawning Areas

25. In an effort to identify areas of great ecological and economic value requiring protection, the Secretariat was requested to initiate the collection of information on spawning areas with the assistance of relevant organizations and based on availability of funding (Ninth Intergovernmental and Sixth Contracting Parties Meeting of Cartagena Convention, 2000).

Other Species

26. In keeping with the approach followed by ISTAC of identifying those priority species within the Annexes requiring immediate and/or special attention, the Parties through the STAC might need to identify additional species to those mentioned above for which cooperative programmes and national conservation activities need to be developed as a matter of priority. For example, in addition to mangroves it might be necessary to address other species of flora and identify concrete actions which might be required.

Information Dissemination and Education

27. Updating and dissemination of the SPAW species database through CEP's webpage in collaboration with Monitor International and WCMC is a major requirement, which needs to be addressed as this will provide an invaluable information tool for Governments. The collaboration of all governments with the provision of information is necessary to ensure that the most updated and accurate information is included in the database (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC).

28. A technical report on all the species listed under the Annexes to the Protocol is yet to be prepared by the Secretariat subject to the availability of funding (First Meeting of the ISTAC). This will also constitute an important information and awareness tool for the implementation of the SPAW Protocol and all governments and relevant organizations should assist with its development as appropriate.

IV. Institutional Arrangements

29. The Secretariat shall assist the Parties and STAC in co-operation with other organizations to:

- i) Facilitate programmes of technical and scientific research pursuant to Article 17 (technical, scientific and management research).
- ii) Facilitate exchange of information pursuant of Article 16 (publicity, information, public awareness and education).
- iii) Develop co-operative programmes pursuant to Article 7 (listing of protected areas) and Article 11 (co-operative measures for the protection of flora and fauna).
- iv) Prepare, when requested, environmental impact assessments (EIAs) pursuant to Article 13 (Article 22).

30. In this context, the Parties and the STAC might want to consider and identify any activities of immediate priority that might be required to initiate implementation of the above issues and which have not been addressed in previous paragraphs.

31. Likewise each Party is required to report periodically to the Organization on the status of existing protected areas and species, also any changes in the delimitation of

the areas or legal status of the species and the areas (Article 19). For this purpose the STAC is invited to consider the common format developed by the Secretariat (document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG. 23/5) and to determine when such reporting should commence.

Evaluation of the SPAW Programme

32. It was recommended that an improved evaluation method for the SPAW Programme be developed 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 (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC). This will be an important tool of the SPAW Programme but will require the active collaboration of all governments to be truly effective. The STAC might want to address this issue at its first meeting and outline the major items which should be considered for such an evaluation.

Partnerships

33. Governments, through ISTAC have noted that there might be a value in broadening the SPAW Programme to involve the private sector. The issue of the role of industry in environmental management is to be addressed by the Secretariat together with UNEP's Industry and Environment Office (Third Meeting of ISTAC). Participation of the private sector in STAC is also being considered in the documents on the Evaluation of ISTAC (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 20/3) and on the proposed Scope and Structure of the STAC (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/4).

V. Financial Issues

34. The Secretariat is to assist in raising funds for Protocol implementation as provided for in Article 24 of the Cartagena Convention (Article 22 of the SPAW Protocol).
35. Governments are requested to be involved to a greater extent with regards to programme financing by honoring their voluntary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund and providing in-kind contributions to ensure and facilitate the implementation of activities of the SPAW Programme (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC).
36. The Secretariat is to explore, with the Caribbean Tourism Organization and other relevant organizations, the merits of establishing "labels", "trademarks" or "user fees" that encourage environmentally sound use of the resources being utilized. The Secretariat is also to convene environmental legislation workshops, where laws and regulations on the generation of funds are analyzed (Second Meeting of ISTAC).

VI. Communication & Dissemination of Information

37. The Parties are required exchange, directly or through the Organization, scientific and technical information concerning current and planned research and monitoring programmes and the results thereof (Article 17). The recently developed list-serv of SPAW which includes Parties, as well as non-parties and partner organizations as observers should be used for this purpose (document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 20/INF.6 contains the current members of the list-serv).
38. Additionally the Governments are encouraged to submit news and technical information to the Secretariat on a regular basis to be published and disseminated through CEPNews (Second Meeting of ISTAC).
39. The governments are recommended to develop mechanisms to improve communication among their Focal Points to CEP, SPAW, GEF, CITES, CBD, etc. and between SPAW Focal Points and the Secretariat. It is also recommended that SPAW Focal Points are nominated expeditiously for those countries that have not yet done so (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC). It is imperative that focal points be nominated in all countries and that there is greater coordination at the national level among focal points to various conventions for the effective implementation of the Protocol. Improved communications with the Focal Points and CEP member governments continues to be a major issue for the Secretariat, who often cannot get through to the appropriate channels within the governments and/or fails to receive responses from them to important communications.
40. It was recommended by ISTAC that Governments send information to the Secretariat on the national training opportunities relevant to SPAW for which international participation is welcome (list of their national training programmes relevant to protected area and wildlife management and also an identification of existing resources and potential technical support) (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC). This information is still required and will be useful for upcoming Training of Trainers courses for MPAs.

VII. Sustainable Tourism

41. The Secretariat will continue the promotion of sustainable tourism practices and will expand from the CEN project as appropriate in collaboration with governments and relevant organizations (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC). Specific activities on this matter for the upcoming biennium are included in the draft Workplan and Budget of CEP for 2002-2003 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 19/8).
42. The ISTAC has underscored the need to analyze the cost/benefit ratio of tourism related activities in protected areas in order to ascertain tourism's contribution and cost to national economic development, especially of local communities (Third Meeting of ISTAC).

VIII. Legal Matters

43. At the request of Governments and through the ISTAC process, the Secretariat initiated in 1993 the provision of assistance to Governments for the development of national legislation to meet the requirements of the SPAW Protocol. A workshop for the common law countries was undertaken and a legislative guide developed. This process is expected to continue for other governments (civil law countries), including those who are not yet Parties to facilitate the adaptation and update of their legislation to meet the requirements of the Protocol. In this context, the Secretariat is seeking funds to implement these activities, also outlined in the draft Workplan and Budget of CEP for 2002-2003 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 19/8).
44. Additionally, Parties and the STAC should consider as well the appropriate mechanisms that need to be put in place to oversee lack of compliance to the provisions of the Protocol from other Parties.

IX. Programme Coordination

45. The Parties are required to cooperate, directly or with the assistance of the Organization or other relevant organizations, in formulating, drafting, financing and implementing programmes of assistance to those Parties that express a need for it in the selection, establishment and management of protected areas and species. These programmes should include public environmental education, the training of scientific, technical and management personnel, scientific research, and the acquisition, utilization, design and development of appropriate equipment on advantageous terms to be agreed among the Parties concerned (Article 18).
46. The SPAW Programme was recommended to further intensify its efforts to identify and implement cooperative activities with the CBD, and with other conventions such as Ramsar, CITES and CMS. Additionally and further to the legal analysis of CITES and SPAW obligations conducted during 1999, ways and means to achieve further harmonization needs to be undertaken as a joint collaboration between interested governments, both Secretariats and relevant organizations (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC).
47. The following has also been proposed to strengthen SPAW coordination (Fourth Meeting of ISTAC):
- i) To specifically include the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) as one of those organizations to emphasize co-ordination, as well as the Meso American Barrier Reef Initiative.
 - ii) In addition to the brochure on the SPAW Protocol, other mechanisms should be considered by the Secretariat to further promote SPAW and its objectives.
 - v) Linkages between the LBSMP and SPAW Protocols and their activities under the framework of the Caribbean Environment Program need to be highlighted.

X. Sources

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