

## **Memorandum of Co-operation**

**between**

**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)**

**and**

**The Secretariat  
of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Nairobi, 1992)**

*Recalling* that the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), Kingston, 12-14 December 1994, noted that "...the comprehensive SPAW Protocol is a fundamental instrument to assist with the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the region" and requested through Decision No. 1 that the Regional Co-ordinating Unit (RCU) to the Caribbean Environment Programme "prepare a draft SPAW-CBD Co-operation Programme to be considered by the CBD Secretariat."

*Recalling* that the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the SPAW Protocol, Kingston, 11-13 October 1995, recommended that "the CBD-SPAW Co-operative Programme should:

1. take into consideration and be compatible with the discussions and/or decisions of the Second CBD Conference of the Parties (COP2)(Jakarta, 6-17 November 1995) in particular the decisions concerning Agenda Item 8-2 "Co-operation with other Biodiversity-related Conventions";
2. be constructed in a flexible manner in order to accommodate collaborating partners, as well as other entities concerned with the conservation of biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean;
3. incorporate the philosophy expressed in document UNEP (OCA)/CAR WG.19/INF.16;
4. include a collaborative arrangement between the CEP Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat and, among other things, identify the appropriate linkages between STAC, the SPAW RAC and the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA); and
5. recognise that collaborative linkages will, *inter alia*, depend on adequate resources being made available to CEP."

*Noting* that the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Jakarta, Indonesia, 6-17 November 1995) adopted Decision 11/13 on "Co-operation with other Biodiversity-Related Conventions," under which the Convention's Executive Secretary is requested "to co-ordinate with the Secretariats of relevant biodiversity-related conventions with a view to:

1. facilitating exchange of information and experience;
2. exploring the possibility of recommending procedures for harmonising, to the extent desirable and practicable, the reporting requirements of Parties under those instruments and conventions;
3. exploring the possibility of co-ordinating their respective programmes of work;
4. consulting on how such conventions and other international legal instruments can contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity."

*Aware* that the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is prepared to co-operate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to promote co-operation and co-ordination in the Wider Caribbean on biodiversity conservation, together with other relevant convention secretariats;

*Therefore* the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (Regional Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Environment Programme of UNEP), hereinafter referred to as "secretariats" decide as follows:

#### **Article 1. Institutional Co-operation**

- a. The secretariats will explore the possibility for the organs of one Convention to participate as observers at meetings of the other.
- b. The secretariats will inform their respective focal points in each Contracting Party of their co-operative activities, and will seek to promote consultation and co-operation between focal points in those Contracting Parties where the focal points for the conventions are different.

#### **Article 2. Exchange of Information and Experience**

- a. The secretariats will institute procedures for regular exchanges of information in their respective fields of action.
- b. The secretariats will work out modalities for exchanging data on biodiversity contained in their databases and the Clearing-house Mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity and for co-operating in preparing relevant documents under each Convention.

### **Article 3. Co-ordination of Programmes of Work**

- a. The secretariats will explore the possibility to co-ordinate the preparation of their respective work plans.
- b. The secretariats will explore the possibility of harmonising the reporting requirements of Contracting Parties under both Conventions.

### **Article 4. Joint Conservation Action**

- a. The secretariats will contact their Contracting Parties with a view to encouraging integration and consistency between National Strategies. Plans or Programmes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Convention and its SPAW Protocol.
- b. The secretariats will consult their Contracting Parties with the view to encouraging effective conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly for the purposes of promoting the conservation of coastal and marine resources and ecosystems.
- c. The secretariats will co-operate on other issues as agreed from time to time and as appropriate.

### **Article 5. Consultation, Reporting and further guidance**

The secretariats will institute measures for consultations on the implementation of this Memorandum of Co-operation and will report accordingly to their respective governing bodies and seek further guidance on new areas of co-operation.

### **Article 6. Review and Termination**

This agreement may be reviewed at the request of either party and will be terminated by either party giving a one-year written notice.

Done at Montreal, on the Third day of March, 1997

Signed by

Nelson Andrade Colmenares  
Acting Deputy Co-ordinator  
Cartagena Convention & its  
Protocols

Calestous Juma  
Executive Secretary  
Convention on Biological  
Diversity