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Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical
Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol
Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
(SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2 – 5 July 2008

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPA), held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 15 to 19 January 1990, adopted the SPA Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 20 of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean, establishes the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). This Article provides that each Party shall appoint a scientific expert appropriately qualified in the field covered by the Protocol as its representative on the Committee, who may be accompanied by other experts and advisors appointed by that Party. Article 20 also provides that the Committee may also seek information from scientifically and technically qualified experts and organizations.
2. In light of the above, and in keeping with Decisions Nos. 4 and 6, of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPA Protocol (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27 September 2004), Decision No. 7 of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPA Protocol (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November 2006) and Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (29 November to 2 December 2006), this Meeting is being convened by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme in Gosier, Guadeloupe, from 2 – 5 July 2008.

For reasons of economy, documents for the Meeting will be printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents from the website as available, and to not request additional copies.

3. This Meeting shall be preceded by a one-day meeting on the Final Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol, in Gosier, Guadeloupe, on 1 July 2008.
4. The proposed objectives of the Fourth STAC Meeting are to:
 - review the implemented activities and outputs of the 2006-2007 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) in Guadeloupe;
 - approve and agree on further action on the “Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol”;
 - review the Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region, and agree on further action;
 - develop the 2008-2009 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme and the SPAW Protocol for subsequent approval by the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol and Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting of CEP in 2008;
 - take note and decide on further action on issues critical to the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean, such as coral reefs and the celebration of the International Year of the Reef (IYOR), and the status of other important species in the region; and
 - identify synergies and opportunities for collaboration with relevant partners to assist with the further development and implementation of the SPAW Protocol and Programme.
5. The representatives of the Contracting Parties invited to the meeting are nominated by their respective Governments to be part of the STAC in keeping with Article 20 of the Protocol. Other member Governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme, United Nations agencies and non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, are invited to participate as Observers. The provisional list of participants will be prepared during the Meeting and presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.2.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The Meeting will be opened by the secretariat, the Government of France, and the Regional Council of Guadeloupe on Wednesday, 2 July at 9:00 a.m., in the Conference Room at the Creole Beach Hotel, in Gosier, Guadeloupe.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

7. The Meeting will be invited to elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties to SPAW, the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, and the Rapporteur for the conduct of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**a) Rules of Procedure**

8. 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.

b) Organisation of work

9. 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. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting is presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.1.
10. 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

11. The Meeting will be invited to adopt the Agenda of the Meeting prepared by the secretariat based on inputs received from the Contracting Parties during preparations for the Meeting, on relevant recommendations and decisions from previous STAC and COP Meetings of the SPAW Protocol, as well as on emerging issues of relevance to the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean. The Provisional Agenda proposed by the secretariat is contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/1.

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPAW PROGRAMME WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE 2006–2007 BIENNIUM, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW/RAC) IN GUADELOUPE

12. The secretariat will present the “Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2006-2007 Biennium” (UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.31/INF.3). During the presentation, the secretariat will also invite the following presentations on major activities of SPAW:
 - the CaMPAM Network and Forum and its major activities, including an update on the status of development of the new marine protected areas (MPA) database (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.9);
 - the activities implemented by the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW/RAC) in Guadeloupe (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.4); and
 - the International Coral Reef Action Network-Mesoamerican Reef Alliance Project (ICRAN/MAR), concluded during the biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.10).
13. The Meeting will be invited to provide any comments on the activities implemented during 2006-2007 and to make the necessary recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM 6: FINAL GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF PROTECTED AREAS TO BE LISTED UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL

14. The secretariat will invite the Coordinator of the Working Group (WG), to present the document “Final Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol” as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG. 31/3, which includes the report of the WG covering the period since the last report was presented to the Parties at the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to SPAW (Montego Bay, 28 November 2006), and the work of the one-day meeting of experts from the Contracting Parties, held before this STAC4 Meeting in Gosier, Guadeloupe on 1 July 2008.
15. The Meeting will be invited to approve the Guidelines and to provide comments and recommendations for further action.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS (MMAP) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

16. The Coordinator for this Ad Hoc Working Group, will present the “Final Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region: Priority Actions and Five-year Plan”, as well as the Report of the Working Group as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4 These reports reflect the work undertaken by the Group since its establishment following the Second STAC and Third COP Meetings (3–6 June 2003, and 27 September 2004, respectively), including the final revisions made by the Group since the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November 2006).
17. The Meeting will be invited to review the document, provide specific comments and agree on further action for its final adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW PROGRAMME FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

18. The secretariat will present the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/5), prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the recommendations of the previous meetings of the STAC and the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol, as well as on the outcome of activities of the 2006-2007 Workplan for SPAW.
19. Particular attention will be drawn to the Meeting on the following activities which require inputs by the STAC as appropriate:
 - Process of development of the Guidelines to prevent species from becoming endangered or threatened with extinction as per decision No. 8 of SPAWCOP 4 and as contained in UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.25/INF.4;

- Process of development of the Guidelines to address the issue of exemptions under Article 11(2) as per decisions Nos. 9 and 7 of SPAW COP2 and COP3 respectively, as contained in document UNEP(DEC)CAR WG.29/INF.5;
 - Preliminary analysis and identification of threatened and endangered species of the region not yet included in the Annexes to the Protocol, in keeping with Decision 2)ii) of COP4 and with information documents, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.6 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.7, on the IUCN Red List for the Caribbean and critical reef fish species and their spawning aggregations respectively, as well as document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.5;
 - Further action on the revised Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.5);
 - Climate change adaptation initiatives in the Wider Caribbean Region as they relate to biodiversity conservation (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.19) ; and
 - Actions in support of the 2010 goals of the CBD on national and regional networks of protected areas, in keeping with the outcome of CBD SBSTTA-13 and COP-9 (UNEP/CBD/COP9/14), held in February and May 2008, respectively.
20. The Meeting will be invited to review the draft Workplan and provide relevant recommendations to assist with its finalization prior to being adopted by the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to SPAW and Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, planned for September 2008.

AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

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

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

22. The Rapporteur of the Meeting will present the draft report of the Meeting (document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/6). The Meeting will be invited to adopt the report, with amendments and corrections to be introduced as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 11: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

23. The Meeting is expected to be closed on Saturday, 5 July 2008, at 6:00 pm by the Chairperson of the Meeting and the secretariat.