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

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 8 September 2008

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), in the Wider Caribbean Region held in Kingston, 15 to 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 and calls for these ordinary meetings to be held in conjunction with the Ordinary Meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Convention. In light of the above, this Meeting was convened by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme, in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, on 8 September 2008, immediately preceding the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) and the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 9 to 12 September 2008).
2. The main objectives of this Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the SPAW Protocol were to:
 - review and adopt the Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC4) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2 to 5 July 2008),
 - review and adopt the Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol,
 - review and adopt the Final Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region and decide on further actions,
 - review the major outcomes of the SPAW Workplan and Budget for the 2006 – 2007 biennium, including the activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW and
 - review and approve the Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2008 - 2009 biennium.
3. The thirteen Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol nominated their respective representatives to participate in the Meeting. Representatives of governments that are non-Contracting Parties and of international, regional, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organizations, were also invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. The List of Participants appears as **Annex IV** to this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Meeting was opened by the Secretariat on Monday, 8 September 2008, at 9:00 a.m. at the Jolly Beach Hotel in Antigua and Barbuda. The Meeting was informed that due to the Hurricane Gustav event of the last few days in the region, interpreters had not been able to arrive on time and therefore simultaneous interpretation would not be available during the course of the Meeting. The Secretariat apologized for this inconvenience and

welcomed suggestions from the Meeting on the conduct of the Meeting. It was agreed that the Meeting would proceed guided by the Secretariat, with the participation of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur as appropriate.

5. The Secretariat welcomed the participants and apologized on behalf of Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the CEP for not being there due to an unfortunate sudden family event. The Government of Belize was recognized and welcomed as the new Party to the SPAW Protocol.
6. Mr. Dominique Deviers, Chairman of the recently held SPAW-STAC4 Meeting, expressed his appreciation for the honour of being asked to Chair the Fifth Conference of the Parties, especially at a time when France was very involved in the conservation of the species and the natural environment of the Caribbean. He reiterated France's commitment to sustainable development in the Caribbean, evidenced by its support since 2000 of the SPAW RAC in Guadeloupe, which was set to receive a boost to complement its staff. He outlined briefly the many environmental protection programmes and initiatives in which France was involved, such as the IFRECOR for the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems in Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, St. Martin and St. Barthélemy. With respect to the protection of endangered species, he underscored the project for the creation of a sanctuary for marine mammals and the possible re-introduction of the manatee in Guadeloupe.
7. In closing, he lauded the Secretariat for the quality of the organization and conduct of the Fourth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting held in Guadeloupe in July 2008. He noted that the spirit of cooperation that had characterized the Meeting was evidence of the commitment of the Contracting Parties and the international experts to implement many of the projects that had been proposed many years ago. He urged the Conference of the Parties to display a similar commitment by endorsing the Guidelines and Criteria for the protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol, as well as the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP). He insisted that the work of the experts and Parties' representatives carried out thus far, should ideally culminate in concrete actions on the ground.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8. The Bureau of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the SPAW Protocol was maintained as the Bureau for the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, as follows:

Chairperson:	Mr. Dominique Deviers	(France)
Vice-Chairperson	Ms. Ibelice Añino	(Panama)
Rapporteur	Mr. Lyndon John	(Saint Lucia)

The Secretariat was requested to assist with the conduct of the Meeting due to the unavailability of interpretation.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

(a) Rules of Procedure

9. The Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council for UNEP (UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3) were applied *mutatis mutandis*, for the conduct of the Meeting.

(b) Organisation of Work

8. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. As mentioned above, simultaneous interpretation in these languages was not available, however, the working documents of the Meeting were available in all three languages. The List of Documents appears as **Annex III** to this Report.
9. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions and working groups were not required.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

10. The Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the Recommendations of the STAC4 and Decisions of the COP4, as well as evolving issues relevant to the implementation of the SPAW Protocol. The Provisional Agenda appears as **Annex I** to this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 5: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC4) TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPAW) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

11. The Secretariat presented the Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (STAC4) (Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2 – 5 July 2008), as outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/6, Annex II. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the Recommendations with the clarifications noted in the Decisions of the Meeting, in **Annex II** to this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 6: GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF PROTECTED AREAS TO BE LISTED UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

12. The Secretariat invited the Director of the SPAW RAC, Coordinator of the Working Group for the Guidelines for Protected Areas, to make a brief presentation on the revised document “Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol” as outlined in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/3.Rev.1, as well as the final “Annotated Format for Presentation Reports for the Areas proposed for Inclusion in the SPAW List” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/4.Rev.1), resulting from the deliberations of the one-day meeting of experts from the Parties, in Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, on 1 July 2008.
13. The delegation of the United States of America (USA) expressed its support of the documents and thanked the Secretariat for the extraordinary work accomplished. Appreciation was also extended to the Director of the SPAW RAC, Maurice Anselme, for his contribution to the process. The delegation further stated that it looked forward to working on projects that would contribute to identifying protected areas suitable for inclusion in the List.
14. The Observer from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) pledged her agency’s support to the process and indicated the organization’s interest in the evaluation of protected areas. The Delegate from Panama affirmed Panama’s support for the document and noted that her country was looking forward to adopting the Guidelines, as well as the future list of protected areas in the Pilot project.
15. The Delegate from Saint Lucia requested clarification regarding the intervention made by Panama. The Secretariat further noted that Recommendation II of the STAC4 had requested that the COP provide guidance on the length and timing for the future evaluation of the listing process and format. The Delegate from St. Lucia also reminded the Meeting about the OECS OPAAL Project on biodiversity conservation and protected areas strengthening in the Eastern Caribbean and the need for synergies to be developed with the listing of PA under the SPAW Protocol.
16. The Delegate from the Netherlands Antilles (NA) proposed that the Annotated Format be tested, stating that it would be advisable to await the outcome of the Pilot project in order to determine the frequency and schedule of evaluation.
17. The Observer from the Humane Society International (HSI) concurred with this suggested approach and enquired as to whether the intention of the project was to garner proposals for the next meeting of the STAC. He noted that within CITES the review of criteria was set at five (5) years and suggested that unless something is egregiously wrong, a substantial period of time should be allowed before revisions were made.

18. The Delegation from the USA pointed out that the document was an annotated format rather than the criteria for selection. The Meeting agreed that the first round of reporting from the Pilot projects would be reviewed prior to setting a timeline for revisiting the Annotated Format.
19. The Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol were adopted by the Meeting as presented.
20. The Secretariat invited the Coordinator of the MMAP Working Group to make a presentation on the process of development of the revised final draft “Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4.Rev.1), finalized following Recommendation III of the STAC4. As requested during the STAC4, Parties had been given an additional opportunity to review the document and provide to the Secretariat concrete comments, which were reflected in the document presented to the Meeting.
21. The Secretariat provided a brief overview of the comments introduced since the STAC4 Meeting. The Meeting was advised that new paragraphs 2 to 18 were actually existing text taken from the original more comprehensive MMAP framework document. It was recommended that this section be maintained in order to provide a contextual basis for the document. The Secretariat noted that specific comments had been provided in the document and drew attention to Section 2.12 containing the timetable for implementation of activities for the next 5 years. The Secretariat further noted that the activities had been streamlined as they had been considered too ambitious to be achieved in the time allotted. In essence, only those activities which were considered feasible or achievable were shaded in the Action Plan. The activities for the upcoming biennia were kept in concert with the draft SPAW Workplan and Budget for 2008-2009.
22. The Delegate from St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) apologized for missing the STAC4 Meeting and requested additional time to review and make comments on the document during the course of the COP Meeting. He added that his Government had some issues to bring to the table regarding aboriginal hunting and traditional fishing activities involving marine mammals.
23. The Delegation from the USA commented on the lengthy introduction and the inclusion of bracketed text which could render the document unsuitable for adoption. The Meeting was urged to work toward clarification of a number of the proposed activities, while prioritizing those areas listed in the draft SPAW Workplan 2008-2009. Two issues cited as being of utmost priority were marine mammal stranding and whale watching.
24. The Observer from the Western and Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization (WECAFC/FAO) informed the Meeting that final reports of the recently concluded FAO/Government of Japan-Lesser Antilles Pelagic Ecosystems Project (LAPE), were being edited for publication and when finalized, would be placed on the public domain through the FAO Fisheries Department website www.fao.org/fi.

The information contained in these reports should be relevant to the UNEP-CEP Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region and the SPAW Workplan for the 2008-2009 biennium. This Observer will inform UNEP-CEP when the LAPE reports were online. He also referred to section 2.1 – Fisheries Interactions of the MMAP and suggested that adjustments be made to the introductory paragraph in order to reflect the uncertainties about the potential effect. He also questioned the issue of the deliberate hunt of marine mammals as bait, as to his knowledge this was not common practice in the Caribbean. This activity however seems to occur in some countries of South America.

25. The Observer from the Marine Mammal Commission (MMC) noted that the Action Plan provided a list of opportunities, goals and priorities which were not limiting and were not intended to be. The list should be viewed as a means to an end and used as a springboard for implementation. He suggested the following 1) that the Meeting identify and approve high priority actions which were practical and regionally important and 2) that the Action Plan be approved as a concept, even if the entire document could not be adopted at this time by the COP.
26. The Observer from the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) made an intervention regarding procedure, suggesting that the Secretariat invite interested parties to discuss suggestion 2) in the paragraph above and arrive at consensus. The Delegation from the USA supported the comments made by the ACS but noted that approval of the document in its entirety would be preferable. The Delegation from France also supported this motion and advised that they were prepared to adopt the MMAP at the Meeting.
27. The Delegation from the USA indicated that clarification was needed on some of the amendments proposed following the STAC4. It was suggested that in the absence of clarification, the language should be replaced by the original text.
28. The Delegate from St. Vincent and the Grenadines stated that his country had an articulated policy on sustainable use of marine resources, including marine mammals. He added that his government accepted traditional cetacean fishing since entire communities were dependant on this type of fishing for their livelihood. He stressed that no consideration was given in the MMAP to the issue of sustainable utilization and referred to the WECAFC/FAO delegate's allusion of the Lesser Antilles Project (LAPE) which examined the interaction between marine mammals and other fish species. He recommended that this information be included in the Action Plan. He further stated that he saw no reason to block consensus but that he wished to have his observations duly noted in the report.
29. The Delegate from the Netherlands Antilles reminded the Meeting that traditional use was possible under the SPAW Protocol, but that this issue should be put forward as an exception under the Protocol rather than the norm. In this context, he noted that any concerns regarding sustainability should be addressed under the exemption clause of the SPAW Protocol. He further suggested that while SVG concerns could be dealt with specifically, the Meeting should look at a general framework for the region. The delegate

of Saint Lucia pointed out that exemption was already in effect under SPAW for both Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and that he therefore envisaged no problems arising from the Plan. The Delegate from SVG reiterated his comment that traditional fishing should also be sustainable and that it should be included for attention under the Plan, along with marine mammals and other fisheries interaction.

30. The Observer from Humane Society International, referred to Article 14, Paragraph 2 and queried whether formal notification of exemption had been received from either Saint Lucia or Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Secretariat informed that no formal notifications have been received to date.
31. There was further discussion on marine mammals being used as bait, which, according to the Observer from WECAFC, certain questions needed to be answered before a conclusion could be reached on the deliberate mortality of marine mammals for this purpose, especially as he was not aware that marine mammals were being used as bait in artisanal fishing. The Delegate from the Netherlands Antilles indicated that there had been reports of this practice in or around Venezuela.
32. The Observer from the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) noted that in order to mitigate and avoid the negative impacts of this practice, local communities should be trained to enhance their awareness of the issues and the consequences.
33. The introductory text on pollution and marine mammal health (2.3) generated considerable discussion. The USA Delegation called attention to the ambiguous nature of the language, for example, whether toxic or chemical pollution was caused by oil, toxic substances or other harmful chemicals. It was agreed that the text should reflect “exposure” to toxic and harmful chemicals while maintaining the emphasis on oil and PAHs as per the original intent of the document.
34. Regarding the number of workshops and meetings of experts proposed in the Action Plan, it was agreed to prioritize only those identified at STAC4 to be included in the SPAW Workplan and Budget for 2009. In the case of meetings of experts, it was agreed to build upon and expand the existing electronic Working Group to be used as peer reviewers and as a forum for discussion when necessary. It was also suggested that the RAC in cooperation with the Secretariat, could continue to assist with the coordination of the Group.
35. Following the productive deliberations and consensus achieved, the Delegation from France proposed that the final document be adopted by the COP with the inclusion of all the changes proposed at the Meeting. This was seconded by the Meeting. Workplan priorities for the 2008-2009 biennium included a Stranding Workshop to be held in the first quarter of 2009, a workshop on whale watching in early 2008 and establishing stronger links with the International Whaling Commission.
36. The MMAP was adopted with the changes introduced by the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

37. The Secretariat presented the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/5.Rev.1), developed following Recommendations of the previous STAC and COP Meetings, addressing existing and emerging global and regional issues and initiatives, and the continued development of strategic alliances. The Draft Workplan also included comments provided by the STAC4 Meeting (Guadeloupe, France, 2 to 5 July 2008).
38. The Meeting was informed that Programme Coordination will continue to be carried out by the SPAW staff, which currently includes a Programme Officer and a Bilingual Secretary, based at the RCU in Kingston, with the assistance of the Director of the SPAW RAC and a part-time Documentalist at the RAC in Guadeloupe. It was noted that efforts will continue during the biennium to secure at the RCU, a JPO to assist with project implementation as in the past. It was recognized that since the entry into force of the Protocol in 2000, the demands on the Secretariat have grown continuously, including the fund-raising aspect. Strategic alliances will be maintained and new ones fostered through coordination with relevant organizations and collaborative arrangements with existing and emerging initiatives.
39. Activities relating to “Strengthening of Protected Areas” include invigorating the CaMPAM Network and Forum through additional partnerships namely with GCFI and US/NOAA. Planned activities include the annual meetings for MPA managers at GCFI; small grants for MPAs focusing on livelihoods and sustainable tourism and fisheries; the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on MPA management and subsequent local training courses; updating the MPA database; as well as linkages with the Caribbean Challenge initiative, and the Western Hemispheric Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI).
40. With regard to the Guidelines for protected areas, following their adoption by the COP the Secretariat and SPAW RAC will undertake a pilot activity for listing protected areas...Criteria for assessment of exemptions under Article 11(2) will be explored (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5) as soon as feasible. Informal consultations with experts and coordination with relevant initiatives (e.g. IUCN Caribbean Red List Project) are being considered to initiate identification for potential listing of species not yet included in the Annexes to the Protocol (see UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.31/INF.6, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.7 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.5).
41. Under the component “Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species”, major emphasis will be placed on moving forward with finalization of the MMAP and implementation of the priority actions identified by the STAC4 and COP5.(see previous agenda item above). Additionally, support and promotion of various activities will continue, such as: the Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs) and establishment of new Index Monitoring Sites for hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) through the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST); a hawksbill regional

workshop (2008) with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), and continued work with migratory birds and protection of their habitats. In this context, synergies will continue with BirdLife on the management of important bird areas (IBAs), as well as with the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO/WECAFC), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) on management of queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) and spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) fisheries, and with CABI on invasive alien species management in the Insular Caribbean.

42. Within the component “Conservation of Major Ecosystems”, the Secretariat will participate in the implementation of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem of GEF, with UNDP and the IOC/IOCARIBE of UNESCO, taking the lead in the pilot project for reef biodiversity. The project will pay particular attention to the strengthening of management frameworks for large marine areas following the multisectoral and ecosystem approach, and enforcing stakeholder participation. Pilot activities are planned for Colombia, Dominican Republic/Haiti, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Secretariat will also continue to serve as the regional focal point for ICRI and will support and promote coral reef management, including monitoring, during the biennium. Collaboration and coordination will continue with the Caribbean Tourism Organization, Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST), and UNEP-DTIE on sustainable tourism initiatives, dissemination of CEP and UNEP materials on sustainable tourism, continued promotion as appropriate of the Blue Flag Programme, as well as strengthening capacities on sustainable marine recreation practices in other parts of the region, based on ICRIAN/MAR experiences in Mesoamerica.
43. The Delegate from the USA expressed her appreciation of the work done by the Secretariat and Parties but stressed that in the past, there had been too many working groups which had placed tremendous burden on the Secretariat for their coordination and on the Parties to participate. She reminded the Meeting that the STAC4 had not identified the Guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened and endangered as a priority for the Workplan. She also expressed concern about initiating the process of reviewing new species for listing under the Annexes and further added that the IUCN Red List process was probably quite lengthy and comprehensive, beyond the SPAW mandate. She recommended that the Secretariat coordinate with the IUCN Project focusing only on those critically endangered species, in order to regulate the review and resources that would be required.
44. The USA Delegation reiterated that the STAC had not recommended a full-scale review of the Annexes, but rather that efforts should be prioritized to first look at the critically-endangered species. She further identified the Nassau grouper as one of the top species for review. The Secretariat noted these comments and responded that resources were limited. However, this activity could perhaps be implemented in the short-term if the situation regarding resources improved. Guidance and recommendations were requested from the COP on the way forward and the following suggestions were made: invite

participating countries to nominate/identify experts in the subject area to participate in a working group, create the working group and allow it to determine the way forward. It was agreed by the COP that these recommendations would be used as the starting point for implementation. The representative from Humane Society International expressed his desire that observers should also be accommodated as part of the process. The Secretariat indicated that all efforts would be made to ensure balance and representation as had been done in previous working groups.

45. The Observer from the Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness (ECCEA) referred to the whale watching activities under the MMAP and stated that her organization had sourced funding for a workshop which would include whale watching and associated activities, which hopefully would be convened in early 2009. She further added that the ECCEA would be submitting additional information to the Secretariat in due course.
46. The Observer from WECAFC reported that his organization's collaboration with UNEP-CEP had been mutually beneficial. He referred specifically to the work conducted on the Queen Conch and Spiny Lobster fisheries and that the guidelines and manual resulting from this collaboration was being made available. He stated that a proposal by Brazil to list the spiny lobster as an endangered species under one of the appendices of CITES had been unsuccessful, but was slated for further discussion. He elaborated further, that WECAFC was working with the CEP on a Fisheries Management Plan for Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He pledged his organization's commitment to continue working in both areas and informed that the General Meeting of the WECAFC would be held in Cartagena, Colombia, in October 2008.
47. Regarding the Guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered, the Observer from the Animal Welfare Institute asked whether the USA was proposing that this activity should not be implemented. The Delegate from the Netherlands Antilles indicated that he had not understood this to be the position of the USA but rather one of prioritizing the tasks to be handled as soon as capacity was available. He echoed the USA concern regarding the proposed urgency of this activity since this had not been discussed in the STAC. The representative from the Animal Welfare Institute stressed the importance of this activity in keeping with paragraph 3 of the General Obligations of the SPAW Protocol and reminded the Meeting that the development of these Guidelines had been approved as a priority as far back as 2001. The delegation from the USA suggested that the language in the draft Workplan for this activity be changed to reflect the following: establish an *ad hoc* working group as soon as time and resources were available. The last two (2) sentences should be deleted. The Secretariat took note of all comments on the Workplan and Budget and thanked the Meeting for the input provided.
48. The Meeting approved the revised Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium, with the modifications and priorities reflected therein, and requested that it be submitted to the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties for final adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

49. The Delegate from the U. S. Marine Mammal Commission (MMC) informed the Meeting of his organization's Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held in Puerto Rico from 9 – 11 December 2008 and invited participants to attend the AGM since the MMAP would feature on the agenda. He invited the Secretariat to attend this meeting to assist in the development of linkages with the MMAP as well as to facilitate discussions.
50. The Director General of the IUCN though unable to attend the Meeting due to previous work commitments, indicated in her letter that the IUCN was fully committed to sustaining and enhancing its collaboration with the Caribbean Environment Programme, especially within the framework of its forthcoming IUCN Caribbean Initiative. She requested that this commitment be conveyed to the COP5, as reflected in the Report of the STAC4 Meeting at which the IUCN was represented.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

51. The Rapporteur presented the draft Decisions of the Meeting, which the participants reviewed and adopted, as reflected in **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

52. The Meeting was closed on Monday, 8 September 2008, at 8.30 p.m., by the Secretariat who again apologized for the absence of the interpreters and translators owing to their delayed flight due to Hurricane Gustav. The Secretariat thanked the participants for their patience, interest and cooperation throughout the Meeting. She also thanked the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for all the financial and human support for the conduct of the Meeting, including providing local staff to assist the Secretariat. The Delegation of France thanked the Secretariat for hosting a successful Meeting, a sentiment echoed by others. The representative from Humane Society International underscored the terrific job done by the Secretariat and added that it had been a pleasure to participate in such a well-conducted Meeting. In closing, the significant contributions of Mr. Milton Kaufman to the Programme, in particular to the cause of the SPAW Protocol were acknowledged and the Meeting wished him all the best for his retirement.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Organization of the Meeting
 - a) Rules of Procedure
 - b) Organization of Work
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA)W) in the Wider Caribbean Region
6. Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol and Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
7. Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium
8. Other Business
9. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
10. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Having reviewed the Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC4) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG. 31/6 (Annex II);

Taking note of the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2006-2007 biennium (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.31/INF.3);

Having reviewed the Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/4 Rev.1), including the Report of the Working Group;

Having reviewed the revised Final Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMA) in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4.Rev.1), including the Report of the Working Group; and

Having reviewed the revised Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008 – 2009 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/5.Rev.1);

Decide to:

1. **Approve** the Recommendations of the 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, with the following amendment:
 - i. Replace “pursued and encouraged” with “encouraged and assessed”, in Recommendation V, paragraph 2, relating to the reintroduction of the manatee in Guadeloupe, France, in keeping with the wording agreed under the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMA) in the Wider Caribbean Region.
2. **Adopt** the revised Final Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol as recommended by the STAC4, and **request that** the Secretariat, in keeping with the SPAW Workplan and Budget for 2008 – 2009, proceed with the implementation of the Guidelines through a Pilot project, after which the applicability of the Annotated Format for Presentation Reports will be reviewed and evaluated as appropriate.

3. **Adopt** the revised Final Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region, with the comments and amendments introduced by the Meeting and reflected in the document.
4. **Adopt for final approval** by the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the revised Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium, with modifications and priorities introduced by the Meeting.

ANNEX III**LIST OF DOCUMENT****Working Documents**

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.27/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.27/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/3.Rev.1	Revised Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol (<i>includes report of the Working Group</i>)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4.Rev.1	Revised Final Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP), in the Wider Caribbean Region (<i>includes report of the Working Group</i>)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/5.Rev.1	Revised Final Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/6 (Annex II)	Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2 – 5 July 2008)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.27/6 (Annex II)	Decisions of the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Information Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.27/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.27/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.3	Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2006 – 2007 Biennium
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.4	Report of the Activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) in Guadeloupe for the period 2006 – 2007
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.5/Rev1.Add.1	Revised Draft Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee -Possible Reintroduction of Manatees a Consideration for Enhanced Conservation and Research (<i>presented as an Addendum due to the size of the Management Plan</i>) (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.8	Directory of Members of the SPAW Protocol Listserve (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.9	Update on the new Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network an Forum (CaMPAM) and its Major Activities
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.10	The Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN): Major Achievements (English and Spanish)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.17	Final Report of the Planning Meeting on the IYOR Wider Caribbean Campaign (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic,

UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/4.Rev.1	10 – 11 November 2007) (English only) Revised Draft Annotated Format for Presentation Reports for the Areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAW List
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5	Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.4	Guidelines to Prevent Species from becoming Endangered or Threatened (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/6	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November 2006)

Reference Documents

UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.27/2.Rev.3	Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3, 1998	Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP
UNEP, 1991	Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Annexes to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region. Final Act
UNEP, 1990	Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region. Final Act
UNEP, 1983	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)

ANNEX IV

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