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

Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

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The Contracting Parties:

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

Taking note of the “Status of Activities of the SPA Subprogramme for 2013-2014” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.3)” and **commending** the work of the Secretariat and the SPA-RAC;

Taking note of the “Report of the SPA Regional Activity Centre (SPA-RAC) in Guadeloupe: RAC Operations and Budget for the period 2013-2014” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.4);

Having reviewed the “Report of the Working Group on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing Under the SPA Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/3) and the Report of the First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPA Protocol of the Cartagena Convention at the 66th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI). (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.9);

Having reviewed the “Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPA Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/4);

Having reviewed the “Report on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MAMAP)” (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.6) and the Report on the LifeWeb-Spain UNEP-CEP Meeting on Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.8);

Taking note of the “Report on the Workshop of Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) for the Wider Caribbean: Review, improve and revitalize the network and the nodes for more effective coral reef monitoring and data management” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10);

Taking note of the Statement of the UNEP CMS Secretariat to the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/CRP.1);

Having reviewed the “Draft Workplan and Budget for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Subprogramme for the 2015-2016 Biennium” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6);

Having reviewed the “Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPA Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7)

Decide to:

1. **Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the SPA Protocol.

2. **Approve** the thirteen (13) protected areas presented by STAC6 for listing under the SPAW Protocol and **welcome** the Secretariat's initiative to continue to support the Protected Areas listed through the cooperation programme.
3. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat and to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties, in particular in those on the species review and on the formats for the exemptions reports.
4. **Approves** the revised version of the Guidance document as presented in Annex III of the Report and extension of the duration of the Working Group to develop the formats for reporting on exemptions granted and **further agrees** to a review of the exemptions process using the Guidance document as approved, after two biennia.
5. **Amend** the species Annexes by adding the following species to Annex II and Annex III respectively:

ANNEX II

Corals

Species	Common name
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	Staghorn coral
<i>Acropora palmata</i>	Elkhorn coral
<i>Montastraea annularis</i>	Boulderstar coral
<i>Montastraea faveolata</i>	Mountain star coral

Birds

<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	Zorzal / Tordo de Bicknell
<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>	Petrel de Coronilla negra

ANNEX III

Birds

Species	Common name
<i>Columba leucocephala</i>	White-crowned pigeon

Plants

Species	Common name
<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	Lignum vitae, Holywood
<i>Ekmanianthe longifora</i>	Roble Real
<i>Bombacopsis emarginata</i>	Seibon de Arroyo

6. **Adopt** the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7, with amendements as reflected below:

Recommendation I

Points 12,13,14 and 15 to read as follows:

“12. The SPAW Secretariat should work with SPAW Parties and CITES to develop a regional wildlife enforcement network

13. Countries that are Parties to CITES should join the CITES Standing Committee contact group discussing the Bahamas report and recommendations on the iguana

poaching incident. SPAW, Parties and NGOs should support recommendations emanating from the contact group.

14. Parties and NGOs should work within their respective spheres of influence, such as the EU, CARICOM and CITES to urge the other Parties to regulate within their national legal systems the ownership, possession, sale and advertising of CITES-listed living species endemic to the Caribbean, to keep illegally acquired specimens, and their progeny, from entering domestic or international markets.

15. Parties considering exemptions under Article 11.2, take appropriate measures under their national laws and policies to ensure that these specimens or their offspring do not unintentionally end up being commercially traded in the future.”

Recommendation III

“1. The *ad hoc* working group on the listing of species to the Annexes be reestablished in the intersessional period to continue its work.

2. The working group elaborate guidelines (e.g. a checklist) for the nomination of species for listing in the SPAW Annexes using Article 11(4) as a basis.

3. The draft guidelines developed and approved by the working group be circulated to SPAW Protocol Parties as soon as it is available.

4. Parties be invited to use the draft guidelines for the development of nominations of species for inclusion in the SPAW Annexes in time for consideration by STAC7.

5. The draft guidelines be forwarded to STAC7 for its consideration”.

Recommendation IV

As reflected above in Decision 4.

7. **Approves** the proposed SPAW Workplan for 2015-2016 as revised by STAC6, and its budget subject to the approval of CEP’s budget by 16th IGM and 13th Cartagena Convention COP, and **further requests** the Secretariat to develop a strategy for mobilization of resources.

8. **Welcome** offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possible hosting of the Seventh SPAW STAC meeting in early 2016.