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

Kingston, Jamaica
14 & 16 October 2025

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

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 is convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cartagena Convention Secretariat by means of an in person meeting, on October 14th, 2025 (tentative) to be held concurrently with the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean, 13-16 October, 2025.
2. The main objectives of this Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP13) to the SPAW Protocol are to:
 - **Review** and **adopt** the Recommendations of the Eleventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC11) to the SPAW Protocol, Hybrid Meeting, 30 June -3 July, Panama City, Panama;
 - **Review** and **approve** the 2026-2027 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for subsequent approval by the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;
 - **Review** and **approve** the reports on protected areas presented by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol;

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.

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3. The nineteen Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol are invited to nominate 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, have also been invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. The Provisional List of Participants will be presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.46/INF.1.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Meeting will be opened by the Secretariat on Tuesday, 14 October 2025, at approximately 9:00 am (EST).

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

5. The Rules of Procedure for the meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) (UNEP, 2012) will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, for the conduct of the Meeting.

2.2 Election of Officers

6. The Meeting will be invited to elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties to SPAW; the President, a first Vice-President, a second Vice-President and the Rapporteur for the conduct of the Meeting.

2.3 Organization of Work

7. English, French and Spanish will be the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages will be provided for the Meeting, and the Working Documents will be available in all the working languages. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting is presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/INF.1.
8. The Secretariat proposes to convene the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of working groups, if necessary, which may be established by the President. No simultaneous interpretation will be available for the working groups. Participants will be reminded that, given the length of the Meeting, breaking into working groups might not be feasible. Participants are therefore expected to come prepared, having reviewed all working documents as appropriate, to provide concrete inputs at the time of discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Meeting will be invited to adopt the Agenda of the Meeting proposed by the Secretariat as presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/1 and the Provisional Annotated Agenda in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/2 Rev.1.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF THE DRAFT WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2026-2027 BIENNIUM

10. The Secretariat will present the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2026-2027 Biennium” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/3 Rev.3), developed following Decisions of previous COP Meetings, to address relevant and emerging global and regional biodiversity issues and initiatives, and to continue the development of strategic alliances.
11. The Meeting will be invited to approve the draft SPAW Workplan and Budget as reviewed by SPAW STAC11 and provide specific comments and recommendations as needed. Subsequently, the Workplan and Budget will be presented to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, as part of the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2026-2027 Biennium, for its final adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REVIEW OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC11) TO THE SPAW PROTOCOL

12. The President will invite the Secretariat to present the Recommendations of the SPAW STAC11 in the Wider Caribbean Region as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/4. During the presentation of the Recommendations, the Secretariat will provide updates on those actions taken following the 11th SPAW STAC and before the convening of the 13th SPAW COP.
13. The Meeting will be invited to review and endorse the recommendations, as appropriate, and propose any other decisions pursuant to these recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. The participants of the Meeting will be invited to raise any other issue not covered by the preceding Agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting.
15. Requests from member governments or observer organizations to make brief presentations at the Meeting will be accommodated at this time.
 - Government of Guyana - Safeguarding Neotropical Songbirds: A Collaborative Approach A Briefing Paper (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/INF.3)
 - Government of The Bahamas - CAR-WEN Briefing Paper for SPAW including MOU and Technical Note to the MOU (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/INF.4)
 - Government of Panama – Panama Coastal Wetlands and NDC Concept Note (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/INF.5)
 - SPAW–Caribbean Biological Corridor - Complementarity in Strengthening MPAs and OECMs (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/INF.6)
 - CBD Secretariat—Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/INF.7)
 - Joint Nature Conservation Committee - Blue Growth through Green Restoration: Cartagena Regional Seas Convention’s Capacity Building on Seagrass Ecosystems project UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/INF.8)
16. The Secretariat will invite member governments to indicate any interest in hosting upcoming meetings of the Secretariat.
17. The President will invite the Meeting to discuss matters emanating from the Any Other Business agenda item, as well as on the elements of the proposed decisions to be considered by the 13th SPAW COP.
18. The President will call for an adjournment of the 13th SPAW COP on the 14 October to enable the Cartagena Convention COP 18 to be reconvened on the 15 of October.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

19. The 13th SPAW COP will be reconvened on 16 October 2025, where the meeting will consider Agenda Item 7: Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting.
20. The Rapporteur of the Meeting will present the draft Decisions of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.51/3). The Meeting will be invited to adopt decisions, with amendments and corrections to be introduced, as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

21. The Meeting is expected to be closed on Thursday, 16th October 2025.