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

Virtual Meeting, 30 January 2023 – 1 February  
2023

## **AGENDA ITEM 4**

### **SPA W CONSORTIUM INTERVENTION**

*This meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically for download as necessary.*

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**SPAW STAC MEETING - PROPOSED ORAL INTERVENTION – AGENDA ITEM 4**

**BY SUSAN MILLWARD, OBSERVER, ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE.**

I am pleased to present on behalf of partner organisations and individuals who work on Caribbean natural resource issues an initiative to establish a Consortium in support of the SPAW program of the Cartagena Convention. We are scientists, lawyers, and policy experts who are joining together in support of the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol. We bring experience and expertise in issues relevant to the Protocol and its member countries. The consortium is intended to add value to the implementation of the SPAW Program functioning as a coordinated regional platform and enhance synergies among its members from civil society to support capacity building.

The Consortium concept has its own governance structure and while supporting the implantation of the Cartagena Convention, it is independent from its institutional framework, does not duplicate work or compete with the roles or mandates of organizations designated as Regional Activity Centres, or which are part of the Regional Activity Networks under the Cartagena Convention.

We believe that only by working together, sharing resources and expertise can countries fulfil their obligations under the Protocol. We would welcome feedback and recognition of parties and also invite potential interested organisations which may want to join this initiative. We would like to offer and provide the Consortium concept paper as a Conference Room Paper for the further review by parties, available in English, Spanish and French. A positive response by SPAW parties would enhance resources, expertise and experience without costs to help support capacity building and the successful promulgation of the Protocol's mandate throughout the region.