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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, 30 January – 1 February 2023

### ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA W) in the Wider Caribbean Region held in Kingston, 15 to 18 January 1990, adopted the SPA W Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 20 of the SPA W Protocol 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 organisations.
2. In light of the above, and in keeping with Decision No. 1 of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA W) (COP1) (Havana, Cuba, 24–25 September 2001) and Decisions of COP11 (virtual, 27 July 2021), this Meeting is being convened by the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention in virtual format, 30 January – 1 February 2023.
3. The proposed objectives of the Tenth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC10) to the SPA W Protocol are to:
  - Review the status of Activities of the SPA W Subprogramme for 2021-2022, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPA W (SPA W-RAC) in Guadeloupe;
  - Review the submissions for the protected areas proposed by Parties for listing under the SPA W Protocol and make recommendations to SPA W COP12;

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

- Review the species proposed by Contracting Parties for listing under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol following the existing criteria and revised process proposed by SPAW COP10, and make recommendations to SPAW COP12.
  - Review the reports for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol submitted by Contracting Parties and make recommendations for adoption by SPAW COP12; and
  - Develop the 2023-2024 Workplan of the SPAW Subprogramme for subsequent approval by SPAW COP12 and the Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region in April 2023, respectively.
4. The eighteen Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol are invited to the Meeting to nominate their respective representatives to be part of the SPAW STAC10 in keeping with Article 20 of the Protocol. Other member Governments of CEP, United Nations agencies and non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations 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.43/INF.2.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

5. The Meeting will be opened by the Secretariat on Monday, 30 January 2023, at 8:00 a.m. (UTC-5, virtually).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

##### 2.1 Rules of Procedure

6. 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

7. 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 Organisation of Work

8. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was 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 WG.43/INF.1.
9. The Secretariat proposes to convene the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of breakout groups, if necessary, which may be established by the President. No simultaneous interpretation will be available for the breakout groups. Participants will be reminded that, given the length of the Meeting and possible constraints of the virtual meeting platform,

breaking into breakout groups might not be feasible. Participants are therefore expected to come prepared, having reviewed all working documents as appropriate, in order to provide concrete inputs at the time of discussion.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

10. The Meeting will be invited to adopt the Provisional 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 presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/1.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR 2021-2022, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW-RAC) IN GUADELOUPE**

11. The Secretariat will present the “Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2021-2022” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.5). During the presentation, the Secretariat will invite the SPAW-RAC to present their report and major activities and will also briefly refer to the following documents:
  - Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe with regard to RAC operations and budget for the period 2021-2022 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.6) and strategic plan for the period 2023-2028 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.7);
  - Exploring the feasibility of implementing recommendations identified in CaMPAM effectiveness assessments (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.8)
  - Exploring the feasibility of implementing recommendations identified in the evaluation of the connectivity among MPAs of the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.9)
  - Rationale and Information Paper on CaMPAM and Development of an Ecological Network of SPAW-listed Protected Areas (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.10)
  - Potential costs, benefits, and operational framework of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.32)
  - Presentation of CAMAC project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.36)
  - Review of Operations, Functioning, and Financing of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks of the Cartagena Convention (UNEP CEP, 2022)
  - RAC/RAN Review Workplan (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.39)
12. The Meeting will be invited to provide any comments on the activities implemented during 2021-2022 and to make the necessary recommendations. Parties will also be requested to complement the information provided by the Secretariat and inform the Meeting on their activities in support of SPAW objectives within their countries, including SPAW workplan

activities in which they have participated and their impact.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP (INCLUDING THE REVIEW OF THE PROPOSALS BY PARTIES FOR LISTING UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL)**

13. The Secretariat will invite the SPAW-RAC, as Chair of the Protected Areas Working Group on the assessment of the protected areas proposed for listing, to report on the tasks assigned during the SPAW STAC9 held virtually, 17-19 March and 14-15 April 2021 and detailed in the updated terms of reference (UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42/INF.12/Rev.1) as per information contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.12.
14. The Meeting will be invited to review the reports which includes proposed protected area for listing from Aruba and France:
  - The “Parke Marino Aruba”
  - The “Parc Naturel Marin de Martinique”
  - the Meeting will therefore endorse its recommendations for approval by the SPAW COP12 in April 2023.
15. The Meeting is expected to be closed on Monday, 30 January 2023, at 1:00 p.m. (UTC-5, virtually) by the President of the Meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE SPECIES WORKING GROUP (including potential new species to be added under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol)**

16. The Meeting will be opened by the President of the Meeting on Tuesday, 31 January 2023, at 8:00 a.m. (UTC-5, virtually).
17. The Secretariat will invite the SPAW-RAC, as Chair of the Species Working Group to report on the tasks assigned during the SPAW STAC9 (virtually, 17-19 March and 14-15 April 2021) and detailed in the terms of reference (UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42/INF.12/Rev.1), as contained in documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.16 and UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42/INF.24; UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42/INF.25; UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42/INF.38; UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42/INF.39).
18. Species proposals reviewed by the Species Working Group include:
  - Inclusion of all Parrot Fishes (Perciformes: Scaridae) in Annex III of the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.17)
  - Uplisting of Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) from Annex III to Annex II of the SPAW protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.18)
  - Uplisting of the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) from Annex III to Annex II of the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.19)
  - Listing of 3 species of hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna mokarran*) in Annex II of the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.20)

- Uplisting of the Lesser Antillean Iguana (*Iguana delicatissima*) from Annex III to Annex II of the SPAW Protocol. (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.21)
  - Listing of the Caribbean reef shark (*Carcharhinus perezii*) in Annex III of the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.22)
  - Listing of the Giant manta ray species (*Manta birostris*) in Annex II of the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.23)
19. The Meeting will be invited to review the Update of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.31) and make recommendations to the SPAW COP12 in April 2023.
20. The Meeting will be invited to provide comments on the proposals and make recommendations to the SPAW COP12 in April 2023:
- Recommendations for the protection and recovery of the Caribbean Sea turtles (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.24)
  - Recommendations for preventing sawfish extinction in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.25)
  - Recommendations for conserving Nassau Grouper in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.26)

**AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT OF THE EXEMPTION WORKING GROUP, INCLUDING THE REPORTING FORMAT FOR EXEMPTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 11(2) OF THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

21. The Secretariat will invite the Exemption Working Group to report on the tasks assigned during the SPAW STAC9 (virtually, 17-19 March and 14-15 April 2021) and detailed in the terms of reference (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12/Rev.1), as contained in documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.33 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.35.
22. The Meeting will be invited to review the presented report and provide recommendations for final consideration by SPAW COP12 in April 2023.
23. The Meeting is expected to be closed on Tuesday, 31 January 2023, at 1:00 p.m. by the President of the Meeting (UTC-5, virtually).

**AGENDA ITEM 8: EMERGING ISSUES (Deep Seabed Mining, Invasive Species, and Ocean Acidification)**

24. The Meeting will be opened by the President of the Meeting on Wednesday, 1 February 2023, at 8:00 a.m. (UTC-5, virtually).
25. The Meeting will be invited to consider relevant emerging issues such those relating to Deep Seabed Mining, Invasive Species and Ocean Acidification).

### **AGENDA ITEM 9: DRAFT WORKPLAN OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2023-2024 BIENNIUM**

26. The Secretariat will present the “Draft Workplan of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2023-2024 Biennium” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.43/3), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the recommendations of previous STAC and COP Meetings, as well as on the outcome of activities of the 2021- 2022 Workplan for SPAW and other relevant emerging regional and international issues.
27. The Meeting will be invited to review the Draft Workplan, prioritize activities, and make recommendations to assist with its finalisation prior to being adopted by SPAW COP12, the Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, tentatively April 2023, respectively.
28. The participants will also be invited to complement the information on the proposed SPAW Workplan recommending synergies with other relevant projects including the Proposal of the French Republic on Sargassum (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.37), as well as potential sources of funding and support.

### **AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS**

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

### **AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING**

30. The Rapporteur of the Meeting will present the draft recommendations of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/4). The Meeting will be invited to adopt the recommendations, with amendments and corrections to be introduced as appropriate. The recommendations will be made available to the SPAW COP12 in April 2023 for adoption.

### **AGENDA ITEM 12: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

31. The Meeting is expected to be closed on Wednesday, 1 February 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (UTC-5, virtually) by the President of the Meeting and the Secretariat.