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

Virtual Meeting, 30 January 2023 – 1 February 2023

**REVIEW OF THE RESPONSE OF ARUBA REPRESENTING THE  
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS ON THREE KEY POINTS IN  
THEIR NOMINATION OF PARKE MARINO ARUBA FOR LISTING  
UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

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

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**REVIEW OF THE RESPONSE OF ARUBA REPRESENTING THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS ON THREE KEY POINTS IN THEIR NOMINATION OF PARKE MARINO ARUBA FOR LISTING UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

**CORE GROUP OF EXPERTS (EVALUATION OF THE SECOND SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL)**

Ana Maria Gonzalez Delgadillo, *Colombia, Ministry of the Environment and sustainable development*;  
Lloyd Gardner, *Foundation for Development Planning, Inc.*

**GROUP OF EXPERTS WHO ATTENDED THE VIRTUAL MEETING ON MARCH 10, 2023**

Emma Doyle, *GCFI*  
Gonzalo Cid, *NOAA, USA*  
Lloyd Gardner, *Foundation for Development Planning, Inc*  
Sietske van der Wal, *FPNA, Netherlands*

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The proposal of Aruba, Kingdom of Netherlands for the inclusion of the Parke Marino Aruba (PMA) in the SPAW listing sites was submitted to the SPAW Secretariat for review on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. Acknowledgement of receipt was sent on the 1st of February 2021 by the Secretariat.
2. Based on previous reviews, the SPAW-RACs proceeds as follow in order to evaluate proposals:
  - i) Some PA Working Group experts review the proposal;
  - ii) A report is done including the points deemed lacking;
  - iii) It is sent to the country for additional information;
  - iv) The information received is communicated to experts for final review;
  - v) The experts group makes recommendations on the proposal.
3. The review of the proposal by the experts of the PA Working Group has been mentioned at the first Working Group meeting, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2022.
4. As of 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2022, a core group of three (3) experts chose to focus on the proposal's review.
5. The proposal was submitted to a series of reviews, carried out by the experts, including a meeting of the core group on 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 and an intermediate meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> of August. This evaluation was supported by the completion of an evaluation table.
6. Comments and justifications from Aruba, Kingdom of Netherlands, were sent on 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 and 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2022.
7. Prior to the Convening of the Twelfth SPAW Conference of the Parties (COP12) and Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM20), the Tenth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region virtually from 30 January 2023 – 1 February 2023 requested the Protected Areas Working group to assess the response of Aruba representing the Kingdom of the Netherlands on three key points in their nomination of Parke Marino Aruba:
  - i. The nomination document should include more references to publications, documents and all relevant sources of information provided on ecological and cultural/ socio-economic aspects.
  - ii. A Management Plan must be elaborated and validated in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders then implemented prior to submitting the application.
  - iii. An evaluation framework to monitor the success of the management must be established.

8. Aruba, Kingdom of Netherlands, resubmitted its proposal for the inclusion of the PMA in the SPAW listing sites to the SPAW Secretariat
9. The review of the proposal by the experts of the PA Working Group has been mentioned virtually on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 and the second version of the proposal was shared with the experts the 2nd of March 2023 for review.
10. The proposal was submitted to a series of reviews, carried out by the two (2) experts, including a virtual meeting on the 10th of March 2023 which was attended by four (4) experts.
11. Based on the reviews, recommendations from the experts were formulated to be presented to SPAW STAC 10 for the COP 12.

## **CRITICAL REVIEW**

12. First and foremost, we would like to thank the Government of the Aruba, Kingdom of Netherland for submitting the Parke Marino Aruba for inclusion in the SPAW list and for its renewed efforts to comply with the Cartagena Convention - SPAW Protocol. In particular, we would like to highlight the significant effort that has been made in recent weeks by the Government of Aruba to provide the additional documents requested by the Secretariat to address the three key points highlighted by SPAW STAC 10, within a particularly tight deadline.
13. We would also like to thank the experts who were involved in the evaluation of the proposal and the evaluation of all the supporting documents, also under strong time constraints.
14. The Aruba's application to list the PMA as SPAW Area is valuable and a lot of work and effort was done to establish the supporting documents but some crucial information and precision are missing to fulfill all criteria.
15. Some details are included in ecological and cultural and socio -economic criteria.
16. Some bibliographic references are included.
17. Some other details against fishing data and tourism activities are included.
18. Faced with the issues related to Chapter 6. Management and the Management Plan should be highlighted that to date there is no current plan. Indeed, a preliminary Marine Park Management Plan (2019-2021) was developed to serve as a guideline for management during a two-year transition phase extended due to Covid delays in stakeholder engagement and consequently the development of the new management plan. The New Management Plan is to be published in Q2 2023 for 2023-2027.

## **KEY ACTION ITEMS**

19. The response of Aruba representing the Kingdom of the Netherlands on three key points in their nomination of Parke Marino Aruba to the SPAW listed protected areas has merit.

20. A Management Plan should be elaborated and validated in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. The updated application presented by Aruba identifies the need for the management effectiveness framework. The process of establishing the management effectiveness framework should be articulated in the management plan

## CONCLUSION

21. The application for SPAW listing of the Parke Marino Aruba will be reviewed again by the PA working group once the final and approved management plan is submitted with the application.