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Eleventh 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

Panama City, Panama
30 June – 3 July 2025

**LETTER OF INTENT
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND
THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND
CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES (IAC) AND, TO PROMOTE
COLLABORATION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF
SEA TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS**

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

Reference: **UNEP-CAR/RCU/2024**

15 July 2024

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BETWEEN**

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THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES (IAC) AND, TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION FOR THE
CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF SEA TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS**

Dear Verónica Cáceres Chamorro, Secretary, Inter-American Convention for the Protection of Sea Turtles,

This Letter of Intent (LoI) expresses the intention of UNEP through the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and in particular, the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (1990, hereinafter referred to as "**SPAW**") of the Convention, to work cooperatively with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (2001, hereinafter referred to as "**IAC**"). SPAW and IAC are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Participants".

The Participants have reached the below understandings and intend to cooperate in accordance with their areas of responsibility and work plans:

1. Establish cooperative linkages to support activities aligned with shared goals for example, conserving the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).
2. Develop and implement joint programmes, capacity building and projects to strengthen the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback and other sea turtle species recognized by IAC and SPAW.
3. Exchange mutually beneficial information to identify opportunities for cooperation focused on the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.
4. Encourage range countries that are SPAW Contracting Parties to consider joining the IAC for unified conservation efforts in the Wider Caribbean Region.
5. Encourage Contracting Parties to the IAC to ratify the SPAW Protocol to strengthen conservation efforts in the Wider Caribbean Region
6. Recognize the importance of participating in each Convention's technical working groups as appropriate.
7. Urge reciprocal participation as observers in meetings organized by each Convention in areas of common interest.

The Participants will seek to develop the collaborative actions considered in this Letter of Intent, through the implementation of their workplans, in accordance with their respective areas of expertise. Likewise, the Participants will consult each other on a regular basis about the progress of the activities carried out within the framework of this Letter of Intent.

Nothing in this Letter of Intent shall be construed as a binding legal Agreement and as such this Letter of Intent does not have any legally binding effect between the Parties.

We would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Gardner', with a stylized, flowing script.

Susan Gardner
Director,
Ecosystems Division