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WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

FIFTEENTH SESSION

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 26-28 March 2014

SPAW Protocol and fisheries management



THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP-CEP) AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The United Nations Environment Programme's Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) was established by Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region in 1986 and constitutes one of the eighteen (18) Regional Seas Programmes of UNEP across the globe. Its mission is to promote regional co-operation for the protection and sustainable development of the marine environment of the 38 member States and Territories that encompass this region and this is achieved through the implementation of activities that support the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols.

The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention, 1983) entered into force in 1986 and 25 Governments of 28 possible in the Wider Caribbean are Contracting Parties.

The Cartagena Convention is supplemented by three (3) specific legal agreements:

- The Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills (**Oils Spill Protocol, 1983**);
- The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (**SPAW Protocol, 1990**); and
- The Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (**LBS Protocol, 1999**).

In response to the objectives of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, the CEP has three mutually supporting sub-programmes:

- Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (**AMEP**);
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (**SPAW**); and
- Communication Education Training and Awareness (**CETA**).

The AMEP sub-programme provides regional co-ordination for the implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols. Additional technical support is provided by three (3) Regional Activity Centres (RACs): Centre of Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays (CIMAB) in Cuba and the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) in Trinidad and Tobago for the LBS Protocol, and the Regional Marine Maritime Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC) in Curacao for the Oil Spills Protocol. The goal of AMEP is to assist countries of the Wider Caribbean (WCR) to control, prevent and reduce pollution of their coastal and marine environments thereby enabling them to meet their obligations under the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols of the Cartagena Convention.

The SPAW sub-programme provides regional co-ordination for the implementation of the SPAW Protocol with technical support is provided by the Regional Activity Centre in Guadeloupe (SPAW RAC) hosted by the Government of France (www.car-spaw-rac.org). SPAW has established Memoranda of Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, the Bonn Convention on migratory species, and the Interamerican Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) and also collaborates CITES, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and many other global and regional conservation programmes. SPAW objectives are to conserve and sustainably manage the marine biodiversity of the WCR through the protection of threatened and endangered species and their habitats and related ecosystems. In this context, the SPAW follows an ecosystem management approach while also focusing on priority species which require special attention. These species are listed by Parties in the Annexes to the Protocol which award different levels of protection. SPAW objectives are met by working with governments and relevant organizations within the region to establish and properly manage protected areas, manage and use sustainably coastal ecosystems and their species.

The CETA sub-programme provides assistance to the sub-programmes of CEP through the development of mechanisms to disseminate information and through the development promotional materials relevant to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

The SPAW Protocol has established a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to address issues and identify priorities regarding Protocol implementation which meets biannually with the meetings of the Parties. This mechanism provides a platform useful for governments, scientists and NGOs to discuss and reach consensus on priority biodiversity issues and initiatives.

The UNEP-CEP Secretariat is based in Kingston, Jamaica. See www.cep.unep.org

Major areas of work of SPAW Sub-programme include

- Marine Protected Areas strengthening, capacity building and networking through SPAW's Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (**CaMPAM**).
- Listing of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol and a cooperation programme for those sites
- Ecosystem based management, focusing on coral reefs and valuation of environmental services of coastal ecosystems
- Species recovery and management. Threatened species (e.g. sea turtles, marine mammals, migratory birds) and species requiring sustainable use (lobster, conch, targeted fish species). Supporting spawning aggregations conservation efforts and listing under SPAW Annexes additional species which require regional attention and management.

Specific activities under the above areas of work include:

- **Small Grants** - Direct assistance is provided to countries through CaMPAM for MPA strengthening and capacity building through small grants to address MPA management needs, develop sustainable fisheries and alternative livelihoods, promote best practices and develop a regional MPA database. CaMPAM

works in partnership with other organisations such as GCFI, TNC, MarFund, CaribSave, CANARI and governments regional initiatives such as those of US/NOAA and France

- ***MPA Training of Trainers Programme*** - This provides comprehensive and targeted training for MPA personnel and through the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM) Partnership sharing and collaboration among MPAs is promoted through dissemination of lessons learnt and exchanges among sites, bringing together MPA researchers, managers, educators and scientists, as well as the private sector.
- ***Ecosystem partnerships*** - Supports coral reef monitoring and assessments in coordination with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GRMN) and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and participates with other UN agencies in the implementation of the GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME) which aims to assist Caribbean countries to improve the management of their shared living marine resources through an ecosystem level approach.
- ***Species Recovery Action Plans and Conservation Plans*** – National and regional recovery plans for species such as sea turtles, regional conservation plan for marine mammals, and support management initiatives for economically important species such as lobster and conch. In coordination and collaboration with relevant intergovernmental organizations such as FAO-WECAFC, CRFM, IAC , CITES and NGOs such as WIDECAST and IUCN

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