The SPAW Protocol & Grenada MPAs

WIDECAST General Meeting Hotel Reef Yucatan, Mexico March 10th -11th 2012

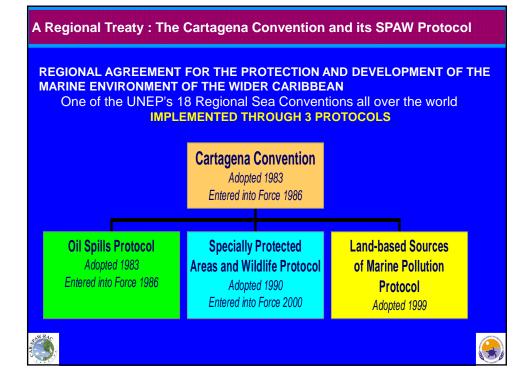




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The SPAW Protocol

The Protocol acts as a vehicle to assist with regional implementation of the broader and more demanding global Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



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The Importance of the SPAW Protocol for the Wider Caribbean

Many of the economies of the countries of the Region are highly dependent on their coastlines for tourism and fishing. However, these very same resources are disappearing or are seriously threatened.

Wildlife species are being depleted at an alarming rate through both overexploitation and destruction of their habitats.

Benefits of the SPAW Protocol

- Only regional legally binding biodiversity treaty for the Wider Caribbean
- Specific provisions for conservation, regional cooperation, awareness, community participation and dissemination of best practices
- Designed and developed by and for governments of the region, thus its relevance to regional issues and circumstances

Benefits of the SPAW Protocol

- Supported by the SPAW Subprogramme, a technical-operational programme, through which technical and financial assistance is provided to Parties to meet the objectives of the Protocol
- No direct financial implications for Contracting Parties (as there is no requirement of financial contributions from the Parties)
- An opportunity for Signatory Governments to demonstrate their commitment to conservation to the international community and donors.

Benefits of the SPAW Protocol

- The Secretariat covers the costs of participation of all Parties at meetings of the Protocol (COP, STAC) and workshops of the SPAW Programme (on MPAs, conservation of endangered species, training, etc.)
- Parties benefit from technical assistance from the Regional Activity Center (RAC SPAW), hosted by the Government of France in Guadeloupe

Activities of the SPAW Regional Programme

 The SPAW activities under implementation respond to the innovative ecosystems and management approach of the Protocol, and provide support to Governments in the following areas:

 Strengthening of protected areas through technical assistance, best practices demonstration sites and a regional training programme for managers; A regional Network and Forum for Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM) and database;

Promotion of best practices and training for sustainable coastal tourism within the government, public and private sectors and coastal communities

What has been done so far under the SPAW Protocol and Programme?

- Active MPA network of managers (CaMPAM) with dedicated list-serve and website, and annual meetings promoting exchange of information and cooperation
- Training programme for MPA managers : at least one training of trainers course every year
- MPA Small Grants Fund: technical assistance, better practices, exchanges among managers throughout the Caribbean.
- Regional guidelines for identification, establishment and management of PA

What has been done so far under the SPAW Protocol and Programme? Species protection, conservation and recovery:

- Regional management plans (eg. Manatees, Marine Mammal Action Plan)
- National management and recovery plans (eg. for sea turtles with WIDECAST)
- Public awareness and education activities (materials, campaigns, support to NGOs etc.)

What has been done so far under the SPAW Protocol and Programme? Species protection, conservation and recovery:

- Data compilation and sharing : MPA database, atlas of sea turtles nesting beaches, database on marine mammals and mapping of critical habitats, ...
- Preliminary studies on the implementation of SPAW measures (turtles), on how to proceed with exemptions

CURRENT SPAW WORKPLAN 2012

4 OBJECTIVES :

- 1. Strengthening of Protected Areas in the WCR
- 2. Development of guidelines for the management of protected areas and species
- 3. Conservation of threatened and endangered species (turtles, marine mammals, etc)
- 4. Conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems



