

Protecting Sea Turtles in the Wider Caribbean: An Observer's Experience with the SPAW Protocol

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Annex II - Obligations

Prohibit



Exception



Annex II - Obligations

Regulate

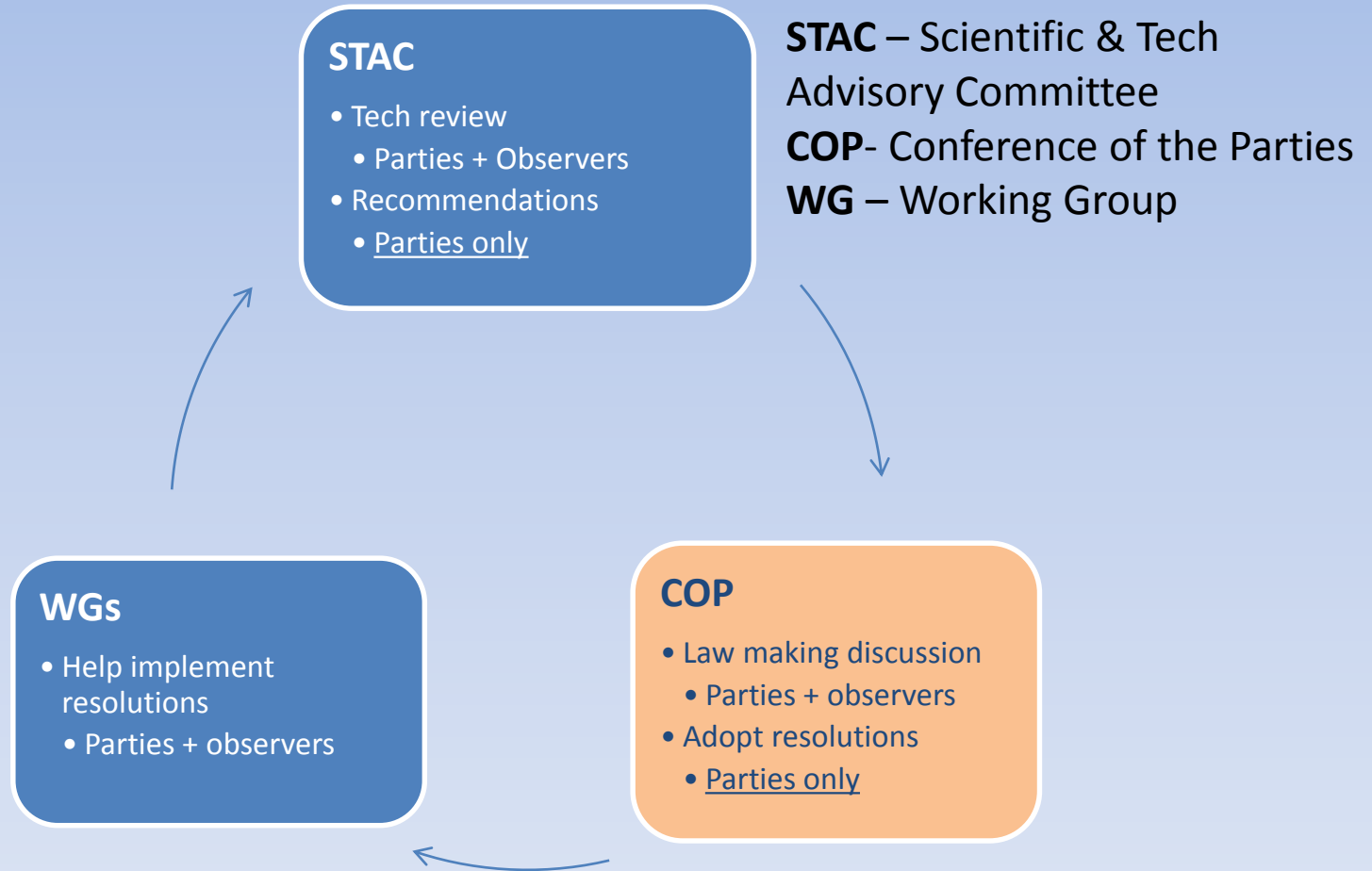


But we know we have...

- ❖ Protections but poor enforcement
- ❖ State parties with open seasons



SPAW Bi-Annual Policy Cycle



STAC 8 - Draft

RECOMMENDATION IV

Welcoming and noting the United States Exemptions Report (2017) (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40 /INF.9) ;

Welcoming and noting the intervention by the Government of Curacao updating the STAC about the status of their exemption report submitted at STAC7 as a response to the decision 7 (iii) of COP9

Taking note of recent reports on the taking of hundreds of marine mammals per year and reports of harvesting of sea turtles still being allowed by some Contracting Parties

Recommends that:

1. Review of current membership of the **Ad Hoc Working Group on Exemptions**, with consideration of its composition regarding (among others), number of members from each Contracting Party, limited to two members per Party: 1 primary representative and 1 Alternate to be nominated by each national Focal Point, as well as number of seats to be allocated for representation by civil society organizations and independent experts
2. Timelines for the submission process of the exemptions report
3. Translation into the three working languages (English, French and Spanish) with due consideration for the need to limit the extend of national reports, but encouraging the use of the adopted Reporting Format for Exemptions on the Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG 38/3)
4. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Exemptions review the United States Exemptions Report (2017) and report to the STAC on their findings, as well as the Curacao Exemptions Report (2016) and any additional information that may be provided by the Government of Curacao since the original exemption report submission.
5. **Contracting Parties comply with the provisions of the Protocol and in the event that taking of any species listed under Annex II of the Protocol that an exemption report be submitted to STAC in order to demonstrate the pertinence of such exemption.**

Who are the champions??

- Demand accountability from non-compliant parties
- Identify “sticks” and “carrots” that could work in non-compliant countries
- Encourage state participation in SPAW

