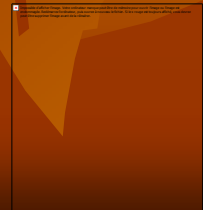


Guidelines and criteria for evaluation of protected areas to be listed under SPAW Protocol

IV STAC SPAW Protocol

Le Gosier, Guadeloupe (French West Indies)

July 2, 2008



Background of expert review

During IV COP, Montego Bay; Jamaica.

- Decision No. 3:
 - Extend WG mandate to revise draft;
 - Involve experts from Parties willing to participate;

Background of expert review

- Decision No. 4: Request that the Secretariat and SPAW/RAC through the national focal points conduct a fast revision of:
 - “Draft Guidelines and Criteria ... (one month maximum) ...of points not resolved yet by consensus;
 - Request Secretariat a potential one-day meeting at STAC meeting

Chronology of working group review: Starting..

- February 20: Letter of invitation to governments and focal points requesting nomination of representatives
- April 1: Finally all nominations received (38 days afterwards)
- April 3rd: SPAW/RAC sends invitation to experts nominated by the Parties, along with recommendations (English and Spanish).

Chronology of working group: Review process

- Approximately 13 experts confirmed documents reception, but not all of them participated in the electronic review
- Review started on April 24th; these were the tasks:
 - Guidelines:
 - **A. VIII (General principles) and B. Ecological criteria b) and d);**
 - **Rewrite Section E;**
 - Annotated format;
 - Glossary;
- Review was slow, and responses few; it finished on January 2008, with few items still pending.

Overview of review (1)

- General comments were provided by: France, US, Netherlands Antilles, Cuba; Colombia, St. Lucia, plus other experts
- 80 messages were exchanged; accessible at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PAcriteria/>
- A-VIII was retained
- No changes on the number of Ecological Criteria required. Experts did not approved changing the number of criteria from 1 to 3

Overview of review (2)

- Section E (Delisting...) Was edited using information of similar processes (World Heritage Convention-UNESCO);
- Glossary not discussed. Different opinions suggest **to take it out** of formal Guidelines, and only post it on RAC website as a tool
- Annotated format was not discussed.
This is just A TOOL to help Parties to compile and organize the information necessary to document nomination; NOT TO BE FILLED COMPLETELY IF INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR ALL FIELDS

Changes in Guidelines, A- VIII

- A-VIII: “Areas proposed for listing must have in place legal, institutional management frameworks for the protection and conservation of their natural features”.

was kept.....

Changes in Guidelines, B b) and d)

- Species viability –The area contributes to the management of species, subspecies or populations of fauna or flora with the objective of preventing them from becoming endangered or threatened. (*An area guarantees the viability of species present on it when possesses reproductive populations of certain size and condition, that ensure the perpetuation of the species at long term*). *The area ensures the viability of the species if the reproductive part of the population contained has the right size or condition for the long-term perpetuation of the species.* Since viability is a condition OF THE POPULATION throughout its range, rather than of ONE INDIVIDUAL MPA (due to their small size), so it is recommendable to delete it.
- Naturalness (Level of disturbance)– [*The degree to which an area has been protected from, or has not been subjected to, human-induced change, and the natural environment is thus free from biophysical disturbance caused by the human influence.*]

Working Group did not conclude on these changes

Changes in Guidelines: Section E.

Procedures for listing and delisting: (1)

The Group agreed by consensus on:

- Parties submit inventory of protected areas....
- Provide the “Annotated format for the presentation reports for the areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAW list” (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/4) and how MPA meets criteria
- Nomination assessed by the STAC/SPAW according to Protocol Provisions and criteria Sections 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D

Changes in Guidelines: Section E.

Procedures for listing and delisting: (2)

- SPAW/RAC will apply a standard evaluation process (external review if needed)
- Secretariat establishes updated list of PA and present it to the STAC for agreement.
- Listing of an MPA requires consult the Party concerned.
- Each Party may withdraw any of site listed under SPAW.
- Delisting

Conclusions

- What we agreed upon:
 - Section A-VIII general principles retained
 - Section B: One Ecological criterion
 - Rewriting of section E (listing and delisting)

Conclusions

What we still have to do:

- **Draft Guidelines-** Go over the pending items and get consensus on number of ecological criteria (1 or 3);
- **Glossary-**
 - Decide on how it will be used
 - Keep it as is, outside the Guidelines, as a tool for consultation
- **Annotated format-**
 - Decide on how it will be used
 - Keep it as is, as a document to guide documentation of nominated MPAs (standardized through data to be filled to the maximum possible, according to the data availability)

Conclusions

Effort

- Four years of hard work, since 2004;
- Progress was made even if slow
- Process very costly (time, staff and funding)
- Participation of experts reviewers was lower than expected.

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Thank you for your attention