

## **MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION**

**between the**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION  
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE  
WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION(Cartagena, Colombia, 1983)**

**and the**

**WESTERN HEMISPHERE MIGRATORY SPECIES INITIATIVE (WHMSI)**

### **PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has a global mandate to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations, to its Member States as well as other non-member States;

WHEREAS, the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme promotes regional co-operation for the protection and development of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;

WHEREAS, the Regional Coordinating Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme for the Caribbean Action Plan (CAR/RCU) serves, amongst other functions, as the Secretariat of the CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION (hereinafter referred to as the Cartagena Convention), adopted in Cartagena in 1983 and having entered into force in 1986, to facilitate the direction and coordination of the legal implementation of the Action Plan;

WHEREAS, the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention work to develop plans, programmes and measures for the sustainable development of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (as defined by the Cartagena Convention);

WHEREAS, CAR/RCU provides information, advice, training and guidance to the Contracting Parties and other Governments and entities regarding the protection and development of the coastal and marine environment in the Wider Caribbean Region;

WHEREAS, the Protocol to the Cartagena Convention on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) provides for the protection of special coastal and marine areas and wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) proposes to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region;

WHEREAS, by their entry into force, the SPAW and the LBS Protocols will, for their further implementation, provide for Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committees to meet periodically under the guidance of their Contracting Parties;

WHEREAS, WHMSI is a partnership among all of the nations of the hemisphere, including governments, non-governmental organizations, and relevant treaties, working to conserve shared migratory species;

WHEREAS, the mission of WHMSI is to contribute significantly to the conservation of the migratory species of the Western Hemisphere by strengthening cooperation and communication among nations, international initiatives and civil society, and by expanding constituencies, awareness and political support;

WHEREAS, WHMSI is organized around the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, and consensus decision-making; and

WHEREAS, WHMSI's members meet at plenary sessions that take place approximately biennially, and its work is guided by an interim steering committee.

PRESENTLY, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mission of both the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and WHMSI, the Regional Coordinator of the CAR/RCU and the Chair of the Interim Steering Committee of WHMSI, in the interest of the mutual advantages in the cost-effective attainment of the objectives of the Convention and WHMSI, wishing to avoid duplication of effort in areas of common interest and to formalize and strengthen their cooperation in the spirit of an efficient and effective partnership, mutually agree as follows:

**Article I. OBJECTIVE**

CAR/RCU and WHMSI agree to cooperate with a view to enabling the Contracting Parties to the Convention and WHMSI partners to identify and strengthen conservation of those sites of international importance which are relevant to both entities.

**Article II. STATEMENT OF WORK**

The activities to be undertaken as part of this MOU will be based on the respective work programs of each entity as approved by their members and will be discussed and developed by the CAR/RCU and WHMSI and may, amongst others, include:

- a. Collaborate in the conservation of migratory species in the Wider Caribbean Region;
- b. Recognize that the ability to implement conservation efforts is limited by the institutional and financial capacities of the two initiatives;
- c. Exchange information on a regular basis on specific aspects of the work of the Cartagena Convention and WHMSI which are of mutual interest and benefit;
- d. Inform their partners at regional and national levels of their cooperative activities;
- e. Sharing of information, databases, reports and other materials to enable early detection of threats to areas and species protected under the Provisions of the SPAW Protocol and to facilitate the necessary studies and analyses to identify measures for the mitigation of such threats, issues and needs;

- f. Coordination and/or joint development of programs and projects for strengthening conservation of specific sites or species which are recognized by the two entities, and for identifying and mobilizing human and financial resources and the knowledge to implement such programs and projects;
- g. Efforts by each entity, in the course of its own promotional activities, to promote recruitment of additional Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and the WHMSI partnership; and,
- h. Informing of, in the spirit of partnership, and inviting each other's participation, and concurrence as appropriate, in meetings, including studies and review, field visits to sites, design, organization and conduct of training, education and information dissemination activities, and other activities to promote awareness of the relationship between the two entities.

**Article III. IMPLEMENTATION**

Nothing in this MOU shall constitute a legal or financial obligation of either entity. Any financial or legal commitments that arise from measures taken to implement this MOU will be made on a case-by-case basis and agreed to by both entities.

This MOU shall enter into force upon signature by the two entities. It may be reviewed at any time agreed upon by the parties in the development of the work program and may be amended at any time by mutual agreement.

Either party may terminate this MOU by giving notice in writing to the other not less than six months in advance.

**On behalf of WHMSI:**

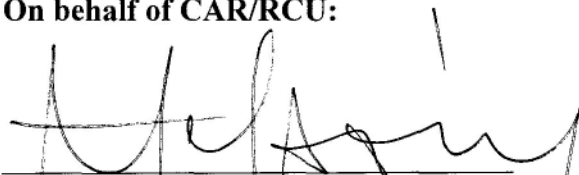


Herb Raffaele, Chair  
Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative

Signed in: Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A.

Date: March 10, 2008

**On behalf of CAR/RCU:**



Nelson Andrade Colmenares,  
Coordinator, UNEP CAR/RCU

Signed in: Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.

Date: MARCH 6 2008