CONVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITES)

This treaty has been signed by 122 countries to control trade in threatened wild plants and animals. The regulations under the CITES are enforced by customs officers in both importing an exporting member states. The governments of the member states may issue permits for import and export of live plants and animals or dead specimens of flora and fauna which are protected by the convention. In the Netherlands Antilles, permits may be obtained from the Department of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene (VOMIL), Section Environment and Nature, on Curacao. Tel.: 09-4655300; Fax: 09-4612154; or e-mail at fpmina@carats.net and milvomil@cura.net.

The CITES lists endangered species which are under a complete trade ban as well as threatened species whose import, export or transit are restricted/regulated. All of the species of sea turtles are on the complete ban list making it illegal to possess even specimens derived from any sea turtle species.

Currently, the CITES Committee has issued a direction to the Netherlands Antilles and several other member states to implement the contents of the Convention in their local legislation by September 30, 2006.

CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorised through a licensing system. Each Party to the Convention must designate one or more Management Authorities in charge of administering that licensing system and one or more Scientific Authorities to advise them on the effects of trade on the status of the species. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need.

Appendices I and II

- Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.
- Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.
- Appendix I and II species found in the Netherlands Antilles are listed in tables below.

Appendix III

- This Appendix contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. Changes to Appendix III follow a distinct procedure from changes to Appendices I and II, as each Party is entitled to make unilateral amendments to it.

The Conference of the Parties (CoP), which is the official decision-making body of the Convention and comprises all its member States, has agreed in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP13) on a set of biological and trade criteria to help determine whether a species should be included in Appendices I or II. At each regular meeting of the CoP, Parties submit proposals based on those criteria to amend these two Appendices. Those amendment proposals are discussed and then submitted to a vote. The Convention also allows for amendments by a postal procedure between meetings of the CoP (see Article XV, paragraph 2, of the Convention), but this procedure is rarely used.

A specimen of a CITES-listed species may be imported into or exported (or re-exported) from a State party to the Convention only if the appropriate document has been obtained and presented for clearance at the port of entry or exit. There is some variation of the requirements from one country to another and it is always necessary to check on the national laws that may be stricter, but the basic conditions that apply for Appendices I and II are described below.

Article III - Appendix-I specimens

1. An import permit issued by the Management Authority of the State of import is required. This may be issued only if the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes and if the import will be for purposes that are not detrimental to the survival of the species. In the case of a live animal or plant, the Scientific Authority must be satisfied that the proposed recipient is suitably equipped to house and care for it.
2. An export permit or re-export certificate issued by the Management Authority of the State of export or re-export is also required. An export permit may be issued only if the specimen was legally obtained; the trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species; and an import permit has already been issued. A re-export certificate may be issued only if the specimen was imported in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and, in the case of a live animal or plant, if an import permit has been issued and it has been prepared and shipped to minimize any risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

Article IV - Appendix-II specimens

1. An export permit or re-export certificate issued by the Management Authority of the State of export or re-export is required. An export permit may be issued only if the specimen was legally obtained and if the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. A re-export certificate may be issued only if the specimen was imported in accordance with the Convention.
2. In the case of a live animal or plant, it must be prepared and shipped to minimize any risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.
3. No import permit is needed unless required by national law. In the case of specimens introduced from the sea, a certificate has to be issued by the Management Authority of the State into which the specimens are being brought, for species listed in Appendix I or II. For further information, see the text of the Convention, Article III, paragraph 5 and Article IV, paragraph 6.

Article V - Appendix-III specimens

1. In the case of trade from a State that included the species in Appendix III, an export permit issued by the Management Authority of that State is required. This may be issued only if the specimen was legally obtained and, in the case of a live animal or plant, if it will be prepared and shipped to minimize any risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.
2. In the case of export from any other State, a certificate of origin issued by its Management Authority is required.
3. In the case of re-export, a re-export certificate issued by the State of re-export is required

Article VI – Permits and Certificates

1. Permits are only valid for six months, and should contain the information including the Convention title, Management Authority name and identifying stamp and control number.
2. A separate permit is needed for each consignment of specimens - any previous export, re-export and corresponding import permit will be cancelled and retained - and where appropriate, a unique mark (as difficult to imitate as possible) will be fixed to the specimen to identify it.

Article VII

The Convention allows or requires Parties to make certain exceptions to the general principles described above, notably in the following cases:

- for specimens in transit or being transhipped [see also Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP13)];
- for specimens that were acquired before CITES provisions applied to them (known as pre-Convention specimens, see also Resolution Conf. 13.6);
- for specimens that are personal or household effects ([see also Resolution Conf. 13.7);
- for animals that were 'bred in captivity' [see Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.)];
- for plants that were 'artificially propagated' [see Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13)];
- for specimens that are destined for scientific research;
- for animals or plants forming part of a travelling collection or exhibition, such as a circus.

There are special rules in these cases and a permit or certificate will generally still be required. Anyone planning to import or export/re-export specimens of a CITES species should contact the national CITES Management Authorities of the countries of import and export/re-export for information on the rules that apply.

When a specimen of a CITES-listed species is transferred between a country that is a Party to CITES and a country that is not, the country that is a Party may accept documentation equivalent to the permits and certificates described above.

See full text of the Convention for details: www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml

	Appendix I species **in the wild in the Netherlands Antilles,** **green dot indicates occurrence on an island**						
Scientific name	**English**	**Papiamentu**	**BON**	**CUR**	**SAB**	**EUX**	**SXM**
Cetaceans (whales, dolphins)							
Physeter catodon	Great Sperm Whale	Kachalote	●	●	●	●	●
Balaenoptera acutorostrata	Minke Whale	Bayena			●	●	●
Balaenoptera edeni	Bryde's Whale	Topo	●	●	●	●	●
Balaenoptera physalis	Fin Whale	Bayena	●	●	●	●	●

Megaptera novaeangliae	Humpback Whale	Bayena	●	●	●	●	●
Birds							
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon		●	●			●
Amazona barbadenis	Yellow-shouldered Amazon	Lora	●				
Sea turtles							
Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle	Tortuga blanku	●	●	●	●	●
Eretmochelys imbricata	Hawksbill Turtle	Karèt	●	●	●	●	●
Caretta caretta	Loggerhead Turtle	Kawama	●	●	●	●	●
Lepidochelys olivacea	Olive Ridley	Tortuga bastiá	●	●	●	●	●
Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback Turtle	Drikil	●	●	●	●	●

	Appendix II species **in the wild in the Netherlands Antilles,** **green dot indicates occurrence on an islands:**						
Scientific name	**English**	**Papiamentu**	**BON**	**CUR**	**SAB**	**EUX**	**SXM**
Cetaceans (Whales, dolphins)							
Tursiops truncatus	Bottlenose Dolphin	Toníu	●	●	●	●	●
Lagenodelphis hosei	Fraser's Dolphin				●	●	●
Delphinus delphis	Common Dolphin	Toníu	●	●			
Stenella attenuata	Pantropical Spotted Dolphin	Toníu	●	●	●	●	●
Stenella frontalis	Atlantic Spotted Dolphin		●	●	●	●	●
Stenella longirostris	Spinner Dolphin		●	●	●	●	●
Stenella coeruleoalba	Striped Dolphin		●	●	●	●	●
Stenella clymene	Clymene Dolphin		●	●	●	●	●
Grampus griseus	Risso's Dolphin		●	●	●	●	●
Ziphius cavirostris	Cuvier's Whale		●	●			
Mesoplodon europaeus	Gervais's Beaked Whale		●	●	●	●	●
Pseudorca crassidens	False Killer Whale		●	●	●	●	●
Orcinus orca	Orca - Killer Whale		●	●	●	●	●
Kogia breviceps	Pygmy Sperm Whale		●	●	●	●	●
Kogia simus	Dwarf Sperm Whale		●	●	●	●	●

Peponocephala electra	Melon-headed Whale		●	●	●	●	●
Globicephala macrorhynchus	Shortfin Pilot Whale	Kabe'i keshi	●	●	●	●	●
Birds							
Phoenicopterus ruber	Caribbean Flamingo	Chogogo	●	●			●
Sarkidiornis melanotos	Comb Duck		●	●			
Buteo albicaudatus	White-tailed Hawk	Falki	●	●			
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed Hawk	-			●	●	●
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	Gabilan piskadó	●	●			
Poliborus plancus	Crested Caracara	Warawara	●	●			
Falco sparverius	American Kestrel	Kinikini		●	●	●	●
Falco columbarius	Merlin	Kinikini grandi	●	●	●	●	●
Aratinga pertinax	Brown-throated Conure	Prikichi	●	●			
Tyto alba	Barn Owl	Palabrua	●	●			
Chrysolampis mosquitus	Ruby-topaz Hummingbird	Blenchi tornasol	●	●			
Chorostilbon mellisugus	Blue-tailed Emerald	Blenchi	●	●			
Eulampis jugularis	Purple-throated Carib				●	●	
Sericotes holocericeus	Green-throated Carib				●	●	●
Orthorhyncus cristatus	Antillean Crested Hummingbird				●	●	●
Reptiles							
Iguana iguana	Green Iguana	Yuana	●	●	●		●
Iguana delicatissima	Lesser Antillean Iguana					●	
Gastropods (snails)							
Strombus gigas	Queen Conch	Karkó	●	●	●	●	●
Black corals							
Antipathes americana			●	●	●	●	●
Antipathes atlantica			●	●	●	●	●
Antipathes dichotoma	Black Coral	Koral pretu	●	●	●	●	●
Antipathes pennacea			●	●	●	●	●
Antipathes tanacetum			●	●	●	●	●
Antipathes hirta			●	●	●	●	●
Antipathes furcata			●	●	●	●	●
Antipathes caribbeana			●	●	●	●	●
Stichopathes lutkeni			●	●	●	●	●

Stichopathes gracilis			●	●	●	●	●
Stony corals							
Acropora cervicornis	Staghorn Coral	Koral Kachu di Biná	●	●	●	●	●
Acropora palmata	Elkhorn Coral	Koral Kachu grandi	●	●	●	●	●
Acropora prolifera	Fused Staghorn Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Agaricia agaricites	Leaf Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Agaricia humilis			●	●	●	●	●
Agaricia tenuifolia	Ribbon Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Agaricia fragilis	Fragile Saucer Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Agaicia lamarcki	Leaf Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Agaricia grahamae	Leaf Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Agaricia undulata	Scroll Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Montastrea annularis (s.l.)	Mountainous Star Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Montastrea cavernosa	Cavernous Star Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Dichocoenia stokesii	Elliptical Star Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Colpophyllia natans	Floating Brain Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Diploria labyrinthiformis	Brain Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Diploria strigosa	Brain Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Diploria clivosa	Brain Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Porites asteroides	Mustard Hill Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Porites porites	Club Finger Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Porites branneri			●	●	●	●	●
Porites furcata			●	●	●	●	●
Madracis mirabilis	Yellow Pencil Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Madracis decactis	Green Cactus Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Madracis carmabi			●	●	●	●	●
Madracis senaria			●	●	●	●	●
Siderastrea sidereal			●	●	●	●	●
Siderastrea radians			●	●	●	●	●
Scolymia cubensis	Solitary Disk Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Scolymia lacera			●	●	●	●	●
Mycetophyllia aliciae			●	●	●	●	●
Mycetophyllia daniana			●	●	●	●	●
Mycetophyllia ferox			●	●	●	●	●
Mycetophyllia lamarckiana			●	●	●	●	●
Mycetophyllia reesi			●	●	●	●	●
Mussa angulosa	Large Flower Coral		●	●	●	●	●

Stephanocoenia michelinii	Blushing Star Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Leptoseris cucculata			●	●	●	●	●
Eusmilia fastigiata	Flower Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Favia fragum	Golfball Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Meandrina meandrites			●	●	●	●	●
Dendrogyra cylindrus	Pillar Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Millepora alcicornis	Fire Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Millepora complanata			●	●	●	●	●
Millepora squarrosa			●	●	●	●	●
Stylaster roseus	Lace Coral		●	●	●	●	●
Cacti							
Acanthocereus tetragonus		Kadushi di Kolebra		●			
Mammillaria mammillaris				●			
Melocactus macrocanthus		Bushi	●	●			
Melocactus citrispinus		Bushi	●	●			
Melocactus spp	4 species?	Bushi	●	●			
Melocactus intortus					●	●	●
Opuntia wentiana	Common Prickly Pear	Tuna	●	●			
Opuntia curassavica	Cylindrical Prickly Pear	Infrou	●	●			
Opuntia triacantha	Spanish Lady				●	●	●
Opuntia dillenii	Sour Prickle				●	●	●
Opuntia rubescens	Sour Prickle					●	●
Opuntia elatior	Broad Prickly Pear	Shangran	●	●	●		●
Ritterocereus griseus	Tall Candelabra Cactus	Yatu	●	●			
Subpilocereus repandus	Candelabra Cactus	Kadushi	●	●			
Hylocereus trigonus	Strawberry Prickle				●	●	●
Pilocereus royeni	Dildo				●	●	●
Pilosocereus lanuginosus	Candelabra Cactus	Kadushi'pushi	●	●			
Orchids							
Brassavola nodosa	Lady of the Night	Orkidia	●	●			
Brassavola cucullata					●	●	●
Schomburgkia humboldtii	Humboldt's Orchid	Banana shimaron	●	●			
Polystachia concreta	Orchid					●	
Polystachya cerea				●			
Liparis nervosa						●	
Tetramicra canaliculata						●	
Ertyhrodes plantaginea					●	●	

Erythrodes hirtella						●	
Jacquiniella globosa					●	●	
Epidendrum atropurpureum				●			
Epidendrum ciliare					●	●	●
Epidendrum difforme						●	
Epidendrum kraenzlinii					●	●	●
Epidendrum secundum					●	●	●
Epidendrum strobiliferum					●		
Maxillaria coccinea					●		
Oncidium leiboldii					●	●	●
Oncidium urophyllum						●	
Spiranthes elata						●	●
Spiranthes lanceolata						●	
Prescottia stachyodes	Orchid					●	
Other plants							
Cyathea spp.	Tree Fern				●	●	
Guaiacum officinale	Lignum-vitae	Wayaká	●	●			●
Guaiacum sanctum	Roughbark Lignum-vitae	Wayaká shimaron	●	●			

THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION

The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the Cartagena Convention) is the only legally binding environmental treaty for the Wider Caribbean. The Convention and its Protocols constitute a legal commitment by the participating governments to protect, develop and manage their common waters individually or jointly. The Parties are required to take appropriate measures (including establishing protected areas) to protect rare or fragile ecosystems, as well as the habitats of depleted, threatened or endangered species, and to develop technical guidelines for the planning and environmental impact assessments of important development projects in order to prevent or reduce harmful impacts on the area of application. Contracting Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control:

- **Article 5** - pollution caused by discharge from ships
- **Article 6** - pollution caused by dumping of wastes and other matter at sea from ships, aircraft or manmade structures at sea
- **Article 7** - pollution caused by coastal disposal or by discharges emanating from rivers, estuaries, coastal establishments, outfall structures or any other sources on their territories
- **Article 8** - pollution resulting directly or indirectly from exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and its subsoil
- **Article 9** - pollution resulting from discharges into the atmosphere from activities under their jurisdiction

The Convention was adopted in 1983 and entered into force in 1986 for the legal implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. For further details, status, and the full text, please visit: www.cep.unep.org/cartagena-convention/cartagena-convention

The Convention has been supplemented by three Protocols concerning;

- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)
- Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills (Oil Spills Protocol)
- Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS)

PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN ("SPAW")

The objective of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (the SPAW Protocol) is to protect rare and fragile ecosystems and habitats, thereby protecting the endangered and threatened species residing therein. Further, under the SPAW Protocol, each party must take all appropriate measures to regulate or prohibit intentional or accidental introduction of non-indigenous or genetically altered species to the wild that may cause harmful impacts to the natural flora, fauna or other features of the wider Caribbean region.

For further details, annexes listing the species concerned, and full text:
www.cep.unep.org/cartagena-convention

Article 3 – General Obligations

Each party shall take the necessary measures to protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable way areas that require protection to safeguard their special value and threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna, including prohibiting activities

having adverse effects on these areas and species with enforcement, and managing species so they don't become endangered or threatened.

Article 4 – Establishment of Protected Areas
Protected areas should be established when necessary to sustain natural resources, encourage ecologically sound and appropriate use, and to conserve, maintain and restore in particular

- representative coastal and marine ecosystems of adequate size
- habitats critical to endangered species
- habitats where local habitants depend on the productivity,
- habitats where is a special value to local people or the Wider Caribbean ecosystems
- areas of special biological, ecological, educational, scientific, historic, cultural, recreational, archaeological, aesthetic, or economic value, including in particular, areas whose ecological and biological processes are essential to the functioning of the Wider Caribbean ecosystems.

Article 5 - Protection Measures
Protection measures for protected areas should include regulation of dumping or discharge of wastes/harmful substances, pollution from coastal developments, passage of ships, fishing, hunting, or harvesting of threatened species, destructive activities, introduction of non-indigenous species, exploitation of the seabed, modification of the soil, archaeological activity, trade in endangered species, industrial activities, tourist and recreational activities, and any other conservation measures for which the protected areas were established.

Article 6 - Planning and Management Regime for Protected Areas
Management measures should include management guidelines, management plan, scientific research and monitoring, public awareness and education, involvement of local communities in planning and management, sustainable financing, contingency plans for responding to incidents, licencing/permitting of activities within protected areas and development of qualified managers and technical personnel and appropriate infrastructure.

Article 7 - Co-operation programme and listing of protected areas
Cooperation programmes should be established within the framework of the Convention and the Action Plan to support listing of protected areas, their selection, establishment, planning, management and conservation, and networks, and prioritising them for research, mutual assistance, and prohibition of destructive activities.

Article 8 - Establishment of Buffer Zones
Buffer zones, where activities are less restricted but remain compatible with achieving the purposes of the protected area, should be established as necessary to strengthen the protection of a protected area.

Article 9 - Protected Areas and Buffer Zones Contiguous to International Boundaries
Two parties shall consult to reach agreement on the measures to be taken, even if one party is not a party to this protocol.

Article 10 - National Measures for the Protection of Wild Flora and Fauna

Each Party shall identify threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna (see Annexes for species and actions identified by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee), regulate activities adverse to those species, undertake activities to promote the survival of these species and prevent species from becoming endangered or threatened, including regulation and prohibition of taking, possession, killing or commercial trade and all forms of destruction or disturbance. Parties should establish plans for the management of captive breeding, coordinate efforts with other parties for protection and recovery of migratory species, repatriate illegally exported species and if possible reintroduce them to the wild.

Article 11 - Cooperative Measures for the Protection of Wild Flora and Fauna
Parties should also adopt cooperative measures with other Contracting Parties to ensure the protection and recovery of threatened or endangered species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol, but may adopt exemptions for scientific, educational, or management purposes as long as they don't jeopardize the species.

- **Annex I and II species** – including some cacti, orchids and tree ferns, and all cetaceans, sea turtles, dugongs, and some species of albatross, pelicans, storks, falcons, cranes, parrots, amongst other bird species - Parties shall adopt all appropriate measures to ensure the protection and recovery of all listed species, by prohibiting the picking, collecting, cutting, uprooting, or commercial trade of such flora, or their seeds, parts or products, and by prohibiting the taking, possession, killing or commercial trade of such fauna, or their eggs, parts or products, or disturbance of such species, particularly during periods of breeding, incubation, or migration or other periods of biological stress.
- **Annex III species** – including mangrove and seagrass species, queen conch, spiny lobster, iguana - Parties should adopt appropriate measures to ensure protection and recovery of listed species and regulate their use to maintain populations at the highest possible levels. This should involve the development of management plans including the prohibition of all non-selective means of capture, killing, hunting and fishing, the institution of closed hunting and fishing seasons, and the regulation of taking, possession, transport or sale of living or dead species of fauna, or their eggs parts of products. This should also involve the regulation of collection, harvest and commercial trade of flora, and their parts or products.

Article 12 - Introduction of Non-Indigenous or Genetically Altered Species
Each Party shall take all appropriate measures to regulate or prohibit intentional or accidental introduction of these species that may cause harm to natural flora or fauna.

Article 13 - Environmental Impact Assessment
Each Party should evaluate the possible direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of projects and activities being contemplated, with guidance and assistance available upon request from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee.

Article 14 - Exemptions for Traditional Activities
Traditional activities shall be taken into account of management and protective measures, to meet traditional subsistence and cultural needs of local populations, as long as they don't endanger the maintenance of protected areas or cause the extinction or substantial risk to flora and fauna, and inform the Convention accordingly.

Article 15 - Changes in the Status of Protected Areas or Protected Species

Changes in the delimitation or legal status may only take place for significant reasons, and areas and species should be reviewed and evaluated by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee and removed if necessary.

Article 16 - Publicity, Education, Awareness and Information
Appropriate publicity should be given regarding the establishment of protected areas and designation of protected species, and also the value of these areas and species. This information should also be included in education programmes, and the government should promote participation of the public in its conservation organisations and measures.

Article 17 - Scientific, Technical and Management research
Each Party shall encourage research on protected areas, ecological processes and heritage, as well as threatened or endangered species, and coordinate this research with other parties, and the effectiveness of management measures and plans, and exchange information with other parties, and compile inventories of areas, biological, genetic, ecological attributes of their areas, threatened or endangered species, area of cultural or natural heritage importance etc.

PROTOCOL CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN COMBATING OIL SPILLS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN
Contracting Parties to this protocol shall, within their capabilities, cooperate to take all necessary measures (preventive and remedial) to protect the marine and coastal environment from oil spill incidents, and establish and maintain the means of responding to incidents so that the risk is reduced.

For further details, annexes and full text see: www.cep.unep.org/cartagena-convention

Article 4 – Exchange of Information
Each Party should exchange up to date information regarding the relevant authorities responsible and laws relating to oil spills with other contracting parties.

Article 5 – Communication of Information
Each Party shall report information regarding oil spill incidents as rapidly as possible, require persons responsible for vessels to report incidents that they have caused or seen, and notify other Contracting parties whose interests are affected, including any vessels involved and inform competent organizations, national or international.

Article 6 – Mutual Assistance
Each Party shall offer assistance and facilitation, within its capabilities, of remediation attempts to control damage of the oil spill incident.

Article 7 – Operational Measures
In responding to an oil spill incident, each Party shall undertake operational measures – which involve making a preliminary assessment, communicating information, determining the ability to take effective measures, consulting other parties concerned, and taking all measures necessary to prevent, reduce, or eliminate the effects of the incident.

Article 8 – Subregional Arrangements

Contracting parties should conclude bilateral or multilateral subregional arrangements

Article 9 –Institutional Arrangements
The regional coordinating unit in cooperation with the International Maritime organization should review and update contingency plans and compatibility of parties plans, publicise training courses and programmes, provide a forum for discussion of activities and topics, establish and maintain liaison with competent regional and international organizations and private entities, inventories of equipment, disseminating information, emergency response communications, encouraging research, exchange of info and preparing reports and other duties

Annex – contracting parties are committed to preparing through an annex an extension to combat the spills of hazardous substances other than oil.

PROTOCOL CONCERNING POLLUTION FROM LAND BASED SOURCES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION
Contracting Parties to this protocol shall take appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution from land-based sources and activities, through the development and implementation of appropriate national, subregional and regional plans programmes and measures including effective means and most appropriate technology and management approaches.

For further details, full text and other Annexes for further consideration and limits of pollutants and their sources concerned with this protocol: www.cep.unep.org/cartagena-convention

Article 4 – Annexes
Annexes of these protocol include lists of substances, the source categories, activities and associated pollutants of concern, effluent and emission limitations, and/or management practices based on listed factors, timetables for achieving limits, and each Party shall take measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution from them. Additional annexes should be developed for substances of concern determined by the Contracting Parties.

Article 5 – Cooperation and Assistance
Cooperation should be achieved on a sub-regional, regional or global basis through competent organisations in the following areas – research on chemistry, fate, transport and effects of pollutants, exchange of scientific and technical information, the most appropriate technologies and research and development of technologies and practices. Contracting parties should gain assistance from other contracting parties, in developing awareness programmes, training scientific technical and administrative personnel, providing technical advice, information and other assistance and identify and approach potential sources of financing.

Article 6 – Monitoring and Assessment Programmes
Each Contracting Party should formulate and implement monitoring programmes to identify patterns and trends in environmental quality and assess effectiveness of measures, the results of which should be made available to the scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee, avoiding duplication of similar programmes.

Article 7 - Environmental Impact Assessment

Contracting Parties shall develop and adopt, review and update guidelines, review effects of potentially polluting activities with environmental impact assessments, which should be taken into account by competent government authorities on decisions regarding this activity, and be published or information made available where practicable.

Article 8 – Development of Information Systems
Contracting Parties shall develop information systems and networks for exchange of information through relevant national, sub-regional, regional or global organisations.

Article 9 – Transboundary pollution
Pollution from transboundary land based sources and activities should be discussed by all contracting parties involved to resolve the issues.

Article 10 – Participation
Contracting Parties shall promote public access to relevant information and documentation and public participation in decision making processes.

Article 11 – Education and Awareness
Contracting Parties shall develop and implement individually and collectively programmes on environmental education and awareness to prevent, reduce and control pollution and promote training of individuals involve in this.

Priority Source Categories and Activities Affecting the Convention Area:
- Domestic Sewage
- Agricultural Non-Point Sources
- Chemical Industries
- Extractive Industries and Mining
- Food Processing Operations
- Manufacture of Liquor and Soft Drinks
- Oil Refineries
- Pulp and Paper Factories
- Sugar Factories and Distilleries
- Intensive Animal Rearing Operations

Associated Pollutants of Concern:
Primary:
- Organohalogen compounds
- Organophosphorus compounds
- Organotin compounds
- Heavy metals and their compounds;
- Crude petroleum and hydrocarbons;
- Used lubricating oils;
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons;
- Biocides and their derivatives;
- Pathogenic micro-organisms;
- Cyanides and fluorides;
- Detergents and other non-biodegradable surface tension substances;
- Nitrogen and phosphorus compounds;

- Persistent synthetic and other materials, including garbage, that float, flow or remain in suspension or settle to the bottom and affect marine life and hamper the uses of the sea;
- Compounds with hormone-like effects;
- Radioactive substances;
- Sediments; and

Characteristics and Other Factors to Be Considered in Evaluating Additional Pollutants of Concern

- Persistency;
- Toxicity or other harmful properties (for example, carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic properties);
- Bio-accumulation;
- Radioactivity;
- Potential for causing eutrophication;
- Impact on, and risks to, health;
- Potential for migration;
- Effects at the transboundary level;
- Risk of undesirable changes in the marine ecosystem, irreversibility or durability of effects;
- Negative impacts on marine life and the sustainable development of living resources or on other legitimate uses of the seas; and
- Effects on the taste or smell of marine products intended for human consumption or effects on the smell, colour, transparency or other characteristics of the water in the marine environment.

INTER AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES ("IAC")

The IAC is the only international treaty created exclusively for the purpose of protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and of the habitats on which they depend. Because individual sea turtles migrate and disperse over vast distances, they are the shared responsibility of many nations. In conjunction with the CITES treaty, the IAC prohibits the intentional capture, retention or killing of, and domestic trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts or products.

Article 2 – Contracting Parties should promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and of the habitats on which they depend.

Article 3 – This Convention covers the land territory of the Americas of each of the parties, as well as the maritime areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean.

Article 4 – Contracting Parties should take appropriate and necessary measures for the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and their habitats in Parties' areas of sovereignty, and vessels on high seas flying their flags. Measures include:

- prohibition of intentional capture, retention or killing of, and domestic trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts of products (excepting subsistence of traditional communities, who will establish management programmes and submit an annual report)
- compliance with obligations established under CITES
- the restriction of human activities, especially during periods of reproduction, nesting and migration,
- the protection, conservation and if necessary restoration of sea turtle habitats and nesting areas, and restrictions in such zones including MPAs,
- the promotion of research and efforts to enhance sea turtle populations including research into reproduction and reintroduction of sea turtles
- the promotion of environmental education and dissemination of information to encourage governments, NGOs and general public to be involved, and
- the reduction of the incidental capture, retention, harm or mortality of sea turtles in the course of fisheries activities, through regulation of activities or use of appropriate gear including TEDs.

Parties may establish bilateral, subregional or regional management plans, and also approve exceptions to the measures in circumstance of special consideration, as long as they don't undermine the objective of the convention.

Article 7 – a Consultative Committee shall be established of appointed representatives of Parties, and representatives of their scientific communities, private sector, and NGOs to review and analyse reports and other info regarding sea turtles, solicit required information, evaluate measures to reduce capture and mortality of sea turtles, and will report on its work.

Article 8 – a Scientific Committee shall be established of representatives of Parties, to examine and conduct research including biology and population dynamics, evaluate impact of activities such as fishing and exploitation of marine resources, coastal development, dredging, pollution, clogging of estuaries and reef deterioration and impact of activities of exceptions to measures allowed, analyze research, formulate recommendations.

Article 9 – a programme shall be established to ensure monitoring of application of measures under Convention, open to Party observers, and in collaboration with other interested states or organisations, if available.

Article 12 – parties shall promote bilateral and multilateral cooperative activities to further the objective of this convention, as well as international organisations, which may include training, exchange and training of technicians, researchers, exchange of information and educational materials, joint research programmes and other workshop etc. Parties shall cooperate to develop and facilitate access to information and training, and endogenous scientific and technological capabilities, promote international cooperation in development and improvement of fishing gear and techniques, and render assistance to developing States.

Article 15 – parties shall act in accordance with the WTO agreement adopted in Marrakesh in 1994.

Article 16 – Parties shall settle disputes through consultation with each other, and seek resolution through any peaceful means possible including international law including the UNCLOS.

ANNEX I
SEA TURTLES*

1. *Caretta caretta* (Linnaeus, 1758), loggerhead turtle
2. *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus, 1758), including *Chelonia mydas agassizii* (Carr, 1952), or as *Chelonia agassizii* (Bocourt, 1868), green sea turtle
3. *Dermochelys coriacea* (Vandelli, 1761), leatherback turtle
4. *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linnaeus, 1766), hawksbill turtle
5. *Lepidochelys kempii* (Garman, 1880), Kemp's Ridley turtle
6. *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Eschscholtz, 1829), Olive Ridley turtle

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ANNEX II
PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLE HABITATS
Measures to protect and conserve sea turtles: EIAs of marine and coastal development activities such as dredging of canals and estuaries, construction of sea walls, piers and marinas, extraction of raw materials, aquaculture activities, industrial facilities, use of reefs, deposit of dredged materials and trash; managing and regulation if necessary of beaches and coastal dunes in respect to location and design of buildings, artificial lighting and vehicles; establishing protected areas or regulating areas where sea turtles next or frequent, including permanent or temporary closures, modification of fishing gear, and reasonable restrictions on vessel traffic.
ANNEX III
USE OF TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICES

Each Party shall require shrimp trawl vessels subject to its jurisdiction that operate within the Convention Area to use recommended TEDs that are properly installed and functional, except those that are manual, or with trawl nets for which no TEDs have been developed, or using trawl gear that has demonstrated no sea turtle mortality, or where there is no likelihood of interaction with sea turtles, or where vessels are conducting approved scientific research, or where the use of TEDs are impracticable (but other measures must be taken), subject to advice of Consultative Committee and Scientifc Committee.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ("CBD")
Further details and full text at: thttp://www.biodiv.org/convention/convention.shtml

The Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty, with the goals of the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and the sharing of benefits arising from the commercial and other utilisation of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. Governments commit to undertake to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. They are required to develop national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to integrate these into broader national plans for environment and development. This is particularly important for such sectors as forestry, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transportation and urban planning. Other treaty commitments include:

- Identifying and monitoring the important components of biological diversity that need to be conserved and used sustainably.
- Establishing protected areas to conserve biological diversity while promoting environmentally sound development around these areas.
- Rehabilitating and restoring degraded ecosystems and promoting the recovery of threatened species in collaboration with local residents.
- Respecting, preserving and maintaining traditional knowledge of the sustainable use of biological diversity with the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Preventing the introduction of, controlling, and eradicating alien species that could threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.
- Controlling the risks posed by organisms modified by biotechnology.
- Promoting public participation, particularly when it comes to assessing the environmental impacts of development projects that threaten biological diversity.
- Educating people and raising awareness about the importance of biological diversity and the need to conserve it.
- Reporting on how each country is meeting its biodiversity goals.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals ("Bonn Convention" or "CMS") http://www.cms.int/documents/convtxt/cms_convtxt.htm

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.

Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I of the Convention. CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that

might endanger them. Besides establishing obligations for each State joining the Convention, CMS promotes concerted action among the Range States of many of these species.

Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in Appendix II of the Convention. For this reason, the Convention encourages the Range States to conclude global or regional Agreements.

In this respect, CMS acts as a framework Convention. The Agreements may range from legally binding treaties (called Agreements) to less formal instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding, and can be adapted to the requirements of particular regions. The development of models tailored according to the conservation needs throughout the migratory range is a unique capacity to CMS.

A Secretariat under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides administrative support to the Convention. The decision-making organ of the Convention is the Conference of the Parties (COP). A Standing Committee provides policy and administrative guidance between the regular meetings of the COP. A Scientific Council consisting of experts appointed by individual member States and by the COP gives advice on technical and scientific matters.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
Text: http://www.ramsar.org/index_very_key_docs.htm

The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world. Types of wetlands covered include swamps and marshes, lakes and rivers, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.

Contracting Parties (member countries) commit themselves to designate at least one wetland that meets the criteria for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance ("Ramsar List") and ensure the maintenance of the ecological character of each of these "Ramsar Sites". Parties are encouraged to include in the List as many wetlands that meet the criteria as possible. Listed sites do not necessarily require protected area legal status, provided their ecological character is maintained through a wise use approach. They also commit themselves to promote the wise use of all wetlands within their territory through their national land-use planning, including wetland conservation and management, training in wetland research, management and wise use and consult with other Parties about the implementation of the Convention, especially with regard to transfrontier wetlands, shared water systems, shared species, and development projects that may affect wetlands.

More than 1,600 wetlands, covering more than 145 million hectares, have been included in the Ramsar List.

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973
http://www.imo.org/Conventions/mainframe.asp?topic_id=258&doc_id=678

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships ("MARPOL Convention") is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by shops from operational or accidental causes. It is a combination of two treaties adopted in 1973 and 1978 respectively and updated by amendments through the years.