



The East Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness (ECCEA) wishes to thank the United Kingdom and the beautiful island of Jersey for its warm welcome. The ECCEA has participated in the work of the IWC since 1993 and in this respect wishes well to our hardworking friends and colleagues Bernard and Sue on their well deserved retirement in the coming months.

An issue of major importance to the Coalition is transparency and governance and in this respect it adheres totally to the proposals made by the United Kingdom for changes in the rules of procedure that will ensure that the IWC aligns its protocol with those of other international conventions. Different views and opinions are the norm in any international body, thus freedom of speech and unimpeded interaction between government representatives and the non governmental community is mandatory. Within the IWC interactivity has been curtailed for several decades. The UK's past proposals can be linked to those made by France, Monaco and a number of other parties. In 2011 the most natural sequence for the IWC as a body would be to adopt the UK resolution by consensus thus restoring its credibility internationally.

ECCEA largely promotes the non lethal use of cetaceans, the moratorium and accordingly the expansion of the increasingly viable blue tourism and non lethal use of whales in the Caribbean, where communities are now full beneficiaries.

With regard to whaling issues relevant to our region. A concern has been registered by the majority of range states as to the management of the North Atlantic humpback hunts, now taking place in both feeding and breeding grounds of this species (Greenland and St. Vincent and the Grenadines). These are seen to increasingly impact on mothers and calves at the Southern end of the range with numerous non reported struck and lost hunts. Large motorised vessels are used to this effect. In June a mother-calf pair stranded in Martinique and Dominica.

Dominica, whose industry is based on live and healthy whales, now boasts of true sustainable use of these ancient creatures because of its ever increasing numbers of whale watchers and has become a model for both scientific research and the whale watching industry.

The Wider Caribbean's whale conservation policy is currently and appropriately governed by the regional Caribbean Environmental Programme (CEP) of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) for the conservation of cetaceans - of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA<sup>1</sup>). This body is thought to be the most

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[UNEP Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol \(SPA<sup>1</sup>\)](#), its annexes for the protection of [and the Marine Mammal Action Plan \(MMAP\)](#) adopted by the 13th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, the Intergovernmental Meeting of the United Nations Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 9 to 12 September 2008 and the decisions of Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 to 9 October 2010 for the further pursuit of Priority Actions relevant to the MMAP

appropriate and consensual with regard to its expertise and management plans for ocean life marine mammals issues. Its long term programmes address the concerns of all 28 range states of the Caribbean region and range state consultation on North Atlantic Humpback whale hunts and the effects of these should be held under their responsibility.

Finally we wish to congratulate France on the official adoption of its marine mammal sanctuary AGOA in its EEZ' of the French Caribbean at the 14th Intergovernmental meeting of the UNEP CEP in Jamaica in October 2010.

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