

Oceans Day at Nagoya

at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
October 23, 2010, Nagoya, Japan



Final Draft, October 23, 2010

Nagoya Oceans Statement

Co-Chairs' Statement

Emanating from the Oceans Day at Nagoya, held on October 23, 2010
during the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 10)
Nagoya, Japan

Call to Governments Participating in the CBD COP 10:

The high-level government representatives gathered at the CBD COP-10, in addition to stakeholders from all relevant sectors, are kindly invited to:

TAKE INTO ACCOUNT the discussions emanating from the Oceans Day at Nagoya;

REAFFIRM the critical importance of marine and coastal biodiversity as a common concern of humankind and as essential to preserving life on Earth;

COMMIT to accelerating their efforts towards protecting marine and coastal biodiversity, improving the scientific basis and management and implementation of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs), and other priority actions outlined in this Statement;

ENCOURAGE the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and coordinate its work with the UN Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment;

SUPPORT the continuation of CBD's work on the identification of marine areas of biological and ecological significance;

CONSIDER the priority actions outlined in this Statement in the negotiations taking place at COP 10, in particular, discussions on a renewed CBD programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, an agreement on access and benefit-sharing, the CBD Strategic Plan for 2011-2020, and financing for conservation and sustainable use efforts;

REKINDLE the political will and commitment of resources to halt marine biodiversity loss, restore degraded marine habitats, and to establish global representative and resilient networks of marine and coastal protected areas, in the next decade, 2011-2020;

CALL for a new process of setting new marine and coastal biodiversity targets at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20) and at the CBD COP 11 in 2012 in order to move the marine biodiversity agenda forward.

Background

The Oceans Day at Nagoya brought together participants from all sectors of the global oceans community--governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and scientific entities--to emphasize the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity as a common concern of humankind and essential for preserving life on Earth.

The Oceans Day at Nagoya built on the discussions on marine and coastal biodiversity held at the Global Oceans Conference 2010, at UNESCO, Paris, May 3-7, 2010, organized by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, the Government of France, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, and 67 other collaborating organizations, and involving 850 participants from 80 countries, including heads of state and other high-level participants. The Global Oceans Conference, highlighted the importance of protecting and preserving marine and coastal biodiversity and sensitive marine and coastal habitats, and emphasized the need to:

- Further advance and apply the knowledge of services and values provided by marine and coastal biodiversity to humankind and poverty reduction;
- Explore the synergies between scientific information and assessments, including socioeconomic dimensions and trade-offs, ensuring that the management and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity is representative of a broad set of interests and perspectives;
- Provide opportunities for building capacity across sectors and nations, incorporating a range of knowledge systems into marine conservation and management;
- Advance the creation of representative networks of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) in the context of the ecosystem approach;
- Further develop and implement methodologies to assess and address the cumulative impacts of human activities on the marine environment and ecosystems, including integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning tools;
- Reinforce the interactions between the scientific community and governments through mechanisms such as the establishment of an IPBES to promote exchange between scientists and policy-makers, similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with appropriate coordination with the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment under the United Nations

The Jakarta Mandate: Assessment of Status and Prospects for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

The Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, adopted at the Ministerial Segment at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1995, has been instrumental in focusing significant attention on the need to protect and conserve marine and coastal biodiversity. However, many marine species and sensitive marine ecosystems still face significant threats to their long-term health and well-being, as outlined by the following:

- The Global MCPA network is not ecologically representative and offers inadequate protection to a number of sensitive ecosystems in coastal and ocean areas and for deep-sea habitats;
- Coral reefs, wetlands, mangroves, seagrass communities, and other valuable marine and coastal ecosystems are facing increasing pressures and are being degraded at a rapid rate;
- Globally, dead zones (oxygen-depleted zones) are increasing in coastal and marine areas due to the impacts of marine and land-based pollution;
- Climate change impacts, which are predicted to increase in the future, have significant implications for marine and coastal biodiversity and will serve to exacerbate the negative impacts of other harmful human activities;
- There is scientific evidence that the effectiveness of the physical and biological pumps in the oceans, which mitigate global warming by absorbing excess carbon emissions, is being compromised;
- Deep-sea and open ocean habitats, such as seamounts and undersea canyons, are facing increasing threats from bottom trawling and other destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing and IUU fishing, mineral exploitation, and other human activities.

Notwithstanding, some progress has been made in addressing drivers of biodiversity loss and establishing MCPAs, particularly in coastal areas. These positive trends and success stories indicate progress towards the achievement of the 2012 MCPA target and the 2010 biodiversity target in relation to certain species and ecosystems and can be looked to for best practices.

The challenge now facing the global community is to develop a vision and mobilize the political will and financial commitments to accelerate progress to halt marine biodiversity loss and to establish global representative networks of marine and coastal protected areas, in the next decade, 2011-2020.

A Vision for the Future 2011-2020

The Nagoya Oceans Statement reaffirms the long-term vision put forward in the CBD Elaborated Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (decision VII/5, Annex 1) **to halt the loss of marine and coastal biological diversity nationally, regionally and globally, restore degraded marine habitats, and secure the capacity of the oceans to continue to provide goods and services** and supports subsequent updates and decisions related to its implementation.

In accordance with decisions IV/5 and VII/5, the Nagoya Oceans Statement recognizes that all activities undertaken towards their implementation shall be guided by:

- The ecosystem approach
- The precautionary approach
- The best available science, including the scientific, technical and technological knowledge of local and indigenous communities

The Nagoya Oceans Statement reaffirms the Jakarta Mandate, which referred to a new global consensus on the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity. However, recognizing that fifteen years have passed since the adoption of the Jakarta Mandate, and that new drivers of biodiversity loss and new scientific research have led the global community to further develop and refine approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, it is essential to highlight the importance of:

- Accelerating efforts to establish representative networks of MCPAs consistent with international law and based on scientific information, with particular attention to addressing gaps in the current global system of MCPAs, including for deep-sea and open ocean areas, taking into account lessons learned from establishment of MCPAs in various countries, including the creation and/or designation of dedicated entities charged to carry out this function;
- Undertaking the establishment of MCPAs in the broader context of marine spatial planning and integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM) at various levels, which will provide for the integration of biodiversity objectives into sectoral and development programmes;
- Developing regional transboundary cooperation, building on existing regional bodies, for example, regional seas agreements, in the context of the ecosystem approach, for establishing marine conservation connectivity within coherent and resilient MCPA networks;
- Addressing cumulative impacts of human activities on the marine environment through the application of environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA);
- Developing and implementing priority actions that enhance the contribution of marine and coastal ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including maintaining the capacity of oceans to store carbon and strengthening the resilience of marine and coastal systems to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification;
- Recognizing the special importance of marine biodiversity in SIDS and developing nations and the need to build capacity to address threats to biodiversity in these areas;
- Improving engagement of all ocean stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including through capacity building and the integration of socio-economic and cultural considerations and traditional knowledge into management frameworks;
- Integrating communication, education and public awareness-raising into biodiversity protection strategies to encourage stewardship of marine and coastal biodiversity in current and future generations and, thus, to contribute to meeting the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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