

Fifth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Small Islands
Joint Meeting of the Global Forum Working Groups on
Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas
and issues related to Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
4 May 2010, Paris, UNESCO
Co/chairs# Summary

Preamble:

The outcomes of discussions at the joint Biodiversity, Marine Protected Areas and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Working Group should also be seen in relation to the issues dealt with by the other Working Groups that met on the occasion of the Fifth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Small Islands (GOC5).

The Working Group built on past discussions at the fourth Global Oceans Conference in Hanoi in 2008. It was decided to focus on recommendations prepared for GOC5 and contained in the policy brief on Preserving Life: Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas as well as relevant elements contained in the other two policy briefs on, respectively, ecosystem-based management and climate change.

The Working Group benefited from an open discussion on multi-stakeholder perspectives on the issues that were dealt with. Views were exchanged, and it was agreed that the recollection of the discussion at the meeting of the Working Group as well as the related outcomes would be presented to the Conference Plenary in the form of a note by the co-chairs of the Working Group (the present document).

Because of the combined nature of the discussion due to a joint session of the two Working Groups, which were originally to meet separately, it proved difficult to make a clear distinction between the mechanisms for the conservation of biodiversity in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction.

It was stressed that the Group's discussions and related outcomes will reflect the need to bring forward new evidence rather than being the result of a negotiating process, which GOC5 was not.

Around 40 people participated in the meeting of the Working Group.

The key messages that emerged from the Working Group's discussion were:

Key messages:

The 2010 Biodiversity Target has not been met, including in the marine environment. Nor has it been the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Target on Marine Protected Areas. Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction play a central role in the sustainable use of the oceans and their resources and in maintaining life on the planet. Yet, little progress has been made in dealing with unresolved and emerging issues affecting these areas.

Against this background, the following main messages, supported by detailed recommendations, are brought forward to the Conference participants:

1. Further advancing and applying our knowledge of services and values provided by marine and coastal biodiversity to humankind, including the role of oceans as carbon sinks and in climate mitigation, and transferring this knowledge to policy and other sectors.
2. Given that the ocean is a common concern to all and that all should benefit from it equitably, ensure that its management and conservation is representative of a broader set of interests and perspectives, through the application of ecosystem approaches and tools, including establishment of networks of Marine Protected Areas and other area-based measures both within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction.
3. Fully explore the potential of synergies between scientific information and assessments along with socioeconomic dimensions to help inform decisions about the protection and management of marine areas within and beyond national jurisdiction.
4. Provide opportunities for building capacity across sectors and nations as well as incorporating a range of knowledge systems into marine conservation and management.
5. Support the creation and utilization of a global and representative list of marine areas of ecological and biological significance to inform future priorities and processes for the management and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Fifteen years have passed since the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity. Building on the Jakarta Mandate as a global consensus on the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity, the Ministerial Declaration arising out of the high-level segment of the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya in October 2010 should include a strong mandate to accelerate efforts towards improved ocean conservation and management.

The Nagoya Oceans Mandate should reaffirm Governments' commitment to the Jakarta Mandate and the importance of the Programme of Work of the Convention in the area of marine and coastal biodiversity. The Mandate would also reaffirm the importance for governments that are contracting parties to the CBD and to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to implement the provisions under the two Conventions in a consistent manner.

The Mandate should also emphasize the need for urgent and collective efforts to be accelerated towards achieving the WSSD goals in relation to the marine environment, and commit to ensuring that oceans and their contribution to sustainable development are among the key areas addressed by the Rio+20 Conference.

The Mandate should also recognize the critical role that oceans play in the earth climate system, reaffirm the Manado Ocean Declaration and strive to ensuring that critical ocean issues are effectively reflected in the results of the UNFCCC negotiations.

Recommendations which include means for operationalizing the Key Messages

Further advancing and applying our knowledge of services and values provided by marine and coastal biodiversity to humankind

- a. Further identify and characterize the whole range of marine ecosystem services
- b. Take into account no-use values in marine ecosystem evaluation
- c. Specify value of open oceans as carbon sink
- d. Promote harmonized methods for assessing marine ecosystem services and for their maintenance through appropriate programmes and institutional arrangements
- e. Integrate recommendations from what already exists in the context of CBD and other constituencies

Ensure that the management and conservation of the ocean is representative of a broader set of interests and perspectives

- f. Engage perceptions of 'our one ocean' rather than individual 'my ocean' views by capitalizing on the notion of ecosystem services as being of common interest to humankind as a whole
- g. Ensure better representativity of sectors and stakeholders' aspirations and views
- h. Strive for truly integrated marine spatial planning and the effective application of other ecosystem approaches and tools
- i. Include expansion of application of ecosystem based management, including through integrated ocean and coastal management, beyond MPAs as well
- j. Promote synergies between the diverse approaches and tools related to ecosystem based management
- k. Strengthen the development of institutional and intersectoral coordination to marine protection in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- l. Promote the integration between national, regional and international tools for marine resources protection

Fully explore the potential of synergies between scientific information and assessments along with socioeconomic dimensions to help inform decisions about the protection and management of marine areas within and beyond national jurisdiction

- m. Relevant endeavors in the areas of natural and social sciences must be advanced simultaneously, and political support for increasing appropriate science ensured
- n. Support should be given to the further development of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Oceans and, in particular, the collection of marine biodiversity relevant information

The possible creation of the proposed Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services would call for appropriate linkages with the Global Marine Assessment process

Provide opportunities for building capacity across sectors and nations as well as incorporating a range of knowledge systems into marine conservation and management

- o. Incorporate alternative livelihoods, especially with regard to access and benefit-sharing, for the beneficiaries of MPAs
- p. With regard to identification and management of MPAs, there should be linkages to socioeconomic criteria, especially with regard to the creation of MPA networks, with a particular view to developing countries
- q. Incorporate fisheries management tools, such as new forms of governance of fishing grounds, into suite of area management;
- r. Integrate sustainable fisheries approaches to complement MPAs and other tools for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity

- s. Encourage the creation of national agencies dedicated to establishment and management of MPAs
- t. Increase application of community-based initiatives to enhance resilience to stressors such as climate impacts

Support the creation and utilization of a global and representative list of marine areas of ecological and biological significance to inform future priorities and processes for the management and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity

- u. Support the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI) and scientific studies on ecological and biological significant areas
- v. Encourage governments to identify ecological and biological significant areas within jurisdiction areas in association with gaps of existing protected areas
- w. Encourage this list for consideration by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction to move toward concrete implementation of WSSD goals in areas beyond national jurisdiction

The Nagoya Oceans Mandate

- x. Take advantage of the Oceans Day in Nagoya to promote a Nagoya Oceans Mandate as part of the Nagoya Ministerial Declaration.
