

## Preserving Life: Marine Biodiversity

### *Global Consensus on the Need to Protect and Preserve Marine Biodiversity*

Halting the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity is an important component of maintaining ocean and coastal ecosystem function. Increasing scientific evidence is indicating the rapidly declining health of marine and coastal biodiversity. The main drivers of marine biodiversity loss are inherently difficult to control and are predicted to increase in the future, as 50% of the world's population is expected to live in coastal areas by 2015 and impacts due to climate change are likely to grow.

In recognition of this major problem, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in 1995, articulating a global consensus on the need to address the major threats to marine and coastal biodiversity. In 2002, the world's governments took a bold step during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in agreeing to a target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 (2010 Biodiversity Target) and to develop representative networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2012 (2012 MPA Goal).

### *The Global Ocean Forum's Role in Facilitating the Achievement of Major Goals for Marine Biodiversity*

As the deadlines for the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the 2012 MPA Goal began to approach, the Global Ocean Forum addressed the issue of marine biodiversity and networks of marine protected areas at the 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands (GOC4), April 7-11, 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam. A plenary panel entitled "Halting Loss of Biodiversity and Establishing Representative Networks of Marine Protected Areas" addressed the various issues surrounding marine biodiversity loss and examined efforts to promote biodiversity conservation. A policy brief on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas was prepared and presented for discussion by participants at the Conference and a set of recommendations for action were communicated to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 9), including the following:

- Make marine biodiversity relevant to individuals, governments and private sector by demonstrating its economic and social value
- Increase financial support for marine biodiversity conservation
- Build capacity by increasing access to suitable tools, guidelines, and lessons learned



Mr. Kondo, Mr. Terashima, Dr. Cicin-Sain, Ambassador Jumeau, and Dr. Djoghlaif at Oceans Fay in Nagoya

- Mainstream the marine biodiversity agenda into all coastal and ocean plans by establishing Friends of the Jakarta Mandate.

### *Working Towards Reducing Biodiversity Loss in the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity*

2010 was a year of major importance for biodiversity with the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity. In this context, the Global Ocean Forum made Marine Biodiversity (2010 Global Goal), Networks of Marine Protected Areas (2012 Global Goal), and Celebrating the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, Toward Nagoya 2010—Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties COP 10 one of the major themes of the 5th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands (GOC5), held at UNESCO, Paris, May 3-7, 2010. This topic was discussed by eleven sessions of the Policy, Science, and Technical Symposium, as well as two plenary panel sessions held at the Policy Conference on May 5—Stock-taking and Tracking Progress in Establishing Networks of Marine Protected Areas and Achieving Reduction of Biodiversity Loss, and Promoting Further Engagement of the Global Ocean Science and Policy Community and Reinforcing the Science-Policy Interface. One of the two recommendations emanating from the GOC5 Co-Chairs' Statement related to marine biodiversity was to develop a Nagoya Ocean Mandate, within the Convention on Biological Diversity process, to provide for the renewal of the Jakarta mandate of marine and coastal biodiversity.

In pursuit of this action item, the mobilized to organize the Oceans Day at Nagoya on October 23, 2010, during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-10, October 18-29, 2010, Nagoya, Japan) in the context of the International Year of Biodiversity. This event provided a critical opportunity to



reach high-level decisionmakers and foster support for a renewed global commitment to conserve marine biodiversity for present and future generations.

The Oceans Day at Nagoya—the first-ever Oceans Day at a CBD Conference of the Parties—brought together more than 150 participants from 25 countries representing all sectors of the global oceans community—governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and the scientific community—to emphasize the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity as a



Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif



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common concern of humankind and essential for preserving life on Earth. Building on the discussions on marine and coastal biodiversity held at the Global Oceans Conference 2010, Oceans Day at Nagoya focused on the major threats to the world's marine and coastal biodiversity. The event featured presentations from panelists organized into thematic panels focused on major issues in marine and coastal biodiversity. Oceans Day addressed the status and trends in biodiversity loss and progress made in achieving biodiversity targets, examined various tools and approaches to conserving and sustainably utilizing marine and coastal biodiversity, and discussed potential next steps in advancing the global oceans agenda.



The Co-Chairs of Oceans Day at Nagoya prepared the Nagoya Oceans Statement, which called for the high-level government representatives gathered at the CBD COP 10 to 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, and called 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 (see Box 12).

Marine and coastal biodiversity was a central topic of discussion at CBD COP 10, where Parties to the CBD discussed means to improve the implementation of the CBD's programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity as well as to address new and emerging issues, such as ocean acidification and marine spatial planning. The Parties to the CBD agreed to a set of targets and action items related to



Oceans Day at Nagoya Co-Chairs: Mr. Hiroshi Terashima, Dr. Biliana Cigin-Sain, and Ambassador Ronald Jumeau

marine biodiversity both in a COP Decision on marine and coastal biodiversity (Decision X/29) and in a new Strategic Plan for the CBD (please see Box 14 for additional details).

## Box 13. Nagoya Oceans Statement, emanating from Nagoya Oceans Day, during the CBD COP-10, 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 Ocean 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

## Box 13 continued...

### 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;

### Box 13 continued...

- 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.



### Box 14. Outcomes of CBD COP 10 Related to Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

(prepared by Marjo Vierros, UNU-IAS)

The CBD Parties adopted an extensive decision on marine and coastal biodiversity at their 10th meeting (decision X/29). This decision covered a number of important topics that were considered to be future priorities. Included in the decision were sections on identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs); scientific and technical aspects relevant to environmental impact assessment in marine areas; impacts of ocean acidification; and impacts of unsustainable fishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, ocean fertilization, underwater noise, and other human activities. The adopted decision provides for an ambitious programme of future work, addressing issues ranging from scientific and technical aspects of EBSAs in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction to the role of biodiversity in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The vital role of tools and approaches such as marine and coastal protected areas and environmental impact assessment continues to be recognized and enhanced.

In addition, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision X/2) provide new opportunities for advancing the management and conservation of marine biodiversity. These targets include the following oceans-related components:

**Target 6:** "By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened



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Box 14 continued...

species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.”

**Target 10:** “By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.”



Dr. Marjo Vierros

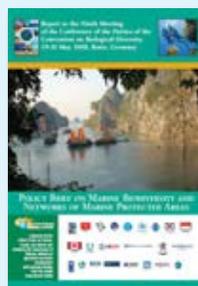
**Target 11:** “By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective

area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”

Overall, the 15-page decision on marine and coastal biodiversity and related targets of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan provide an ambitious and comprehensive list of activities that have the potential to improve the management of marine and coastal biodiversity, and contribute to reaching future biodiversity and MPA targets. The decision provides new direction on emerging issues, such as climate change and ocean acidification, and offers new tools, such as marine spatial planning, EIA and SEA, and valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services to better mainstream biodiversity concerns into sectoral and development agendas.



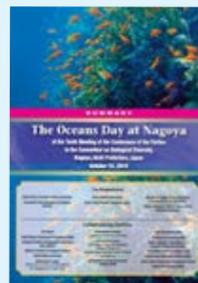
Box 15. Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas Reports



*Policy Brief on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas (2008)*



*Policy Brief on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas (2010)*



*Oceans Day in Nagoya Summary (2010)*

