



GLOBAL OCEANS CONFERENCE 2010

ENSURING SURVIVAL, PRESERVING LIFE, IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

Oceans, Climate, Biodiversity: From Copenhagen 2009 to Nagoya 2010
May 3–7, 2010, UNESCO, Paris, France

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO
Celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity 2010



5th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Ensuring Survival, Preserving Life, and Improving Governance May 3-7, 2010, UNESCO, Paris, France

Co-Chairs' Concluding Statement May 7, 2010

The 5th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, which convened on May 3-7, 2010 at UNESCO in Paris, brought together over 800 experts from 80 countries representing all sectors of the global oceans community--governments, international agencies, nongovernmental organizations, industry, scientific groups, academia, and museums and aquaria--to advance the global oceans agenda on three major policy issues affecting the oceans: climate and oceans; loss of marine biodiversity; and improving governance. The event also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

The predominant assessment of the conference is that the various international commitments and targets agreed to at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and in other related fora, have not been met on a global basis, although there have been notable examples of success at regional, national, and local levels. As well, while the awareness and visibility of oceans among decisionmakers and the public alike have increased considerably in the last decade, oceans have been largely absent in the climate negotiations, biodiversity loss continues to occur at an alarming rate, and progress on implementing ecosystem-based management and integrated and coastal management is lagging.

A stronger political mobilization is needed within and among coastal nations of the world to fully benefit from the imple-

mentation of common principles and approaches for managing oceans and coastal areas such as ecosystem-based management, integrated coastal and ocean management, marine spatial planning, and marine protected areas (MPAs). There are, however, positive signs in that a growing number of nations have or are in the process of developing integrated ocean policies based on common principles of ocean governance.

Convinced of the need to make progress on climate and oceans, marine biodiversity loss, and the implementation of an integrated ecosystem approach, and in consideration of the need to build consensus on, and foster equity in the policy options among different countries, regions, and interests, the Conference Co-Chairs put forth the following vision developed on the basis of discussion at the Conference for consideration by national and international authorities.

1. Ensuring Survival: Oceans, Climate, and Security

Oceans play a major role in regulating climate conditions, and changes in atmospheric conditions will have profound effects on the functioning of ocean ecosystems. Ocean warming and acidification, and sea-level rise will result in lasting change which may be difficult, and in some cases impossible, to adapt. For example, the oceans have absorbed 30% of atmospheric CO₂ over the last 200 years, which has increased their acidity. This and other impacts hold large implications not only for half of the global population which lives in coastal areas—in 183 coastal nations, including 44 small

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island developing States (SIDS), but for the future of the entire planet as well.

For coastal peoples everywhere and especially for SIDS nations, curbing climate change through deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions on a short time basis and with immediate and adequate financing to deploy adaptation measures is of utmost importance and, in many cases, a matter of survival.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Launch a comprehensive ocean and climate initiative within and outside the UNFCCC negotiation process

Such an initiative should include elements of:

- (i) *Mitigation* that emphasizes the positive contribution that oceans can play in the mitigation of global warming, such as through the use of natural carbon sinks in coastal areas, the reduction of CO₂ emissions of maritime activities, developing ocean-based renewable energy, and carbon capture and storage;
- (ii) *Adaptation* measures implemented through integrated coastal and ocean management institutions at local and regional scales contributing to the improved preparedness, resilience, and adaptive capacities of communities that depend on marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods and food security;
- (iii) Programs focusing on *capacity development, public education and awareness* to prepare national, local officials, and the public to address climate change; and
- (iv) Measures to address the issues associated with the possible *displacement of coastal populations* as a result of climate change.

2. Stock-taking and Tracking Progress in Achieving Reduction of Biodiversity Loss, and Establishing Networks of Marine Protected Areas

The decline of biodiversity is as big a global challenge as climate change. Ecosystems provide us with basic life necessities including food, freshwater, wood, fiber, genetic resources, medicines, and cultural products. These services are provided by biodiversity, which forms the basis of the provisioning services of ecosystems. They are essential for sustaining and securing livelihoods, and they ensure the health of communities, their security and well-being.

World leaders have failed to deliver commitments made in 2002 to reduce the global rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, and have instead witnessed alarming biodiversity declines on a global basis, although there have been some notable examples of success at national and local levels.

RECOMMENDATION 2: In the context of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, it is recommended that:

--Within the Convention on Biological Diversity process, a Nagoya Oceans Mandate should be developed to provide for the renewal of the Jakarta mandate of marine and coastal biodiversity.

--The establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) should be promoted.

Such initiatives would aim to support the development of ecosystem-based management at the appropriate scale, including through, among other management tools, the increase of MPA coverage and the establishment of coherent MPA networks that are representative of the full range of biodiversity in the oceans, including deep seas and pelagic areas, and in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction.

Interactions between the scientific community and governments need to be reinforced through mechanisms such as the proposal to establish an IPBES to promote exchange between scientists and policy-makers, similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for climate change, with appropriate coordination with the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment under the United Nations. Additionally, interactions among governments, the scientific community, and local communities should be strengthened, in order to incorporate local and traditional knowledge on marine biodiversity in the decision-making process.

3. Implementation of Best Practices in Integrated, Ecosystem-based Ocean and Coastal Management at Local, National, and Regional Levels, and in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Faced with increasing resource and user conflicts in ocean areas, both national governments and international authorities have recognized the need to take a more integrated, ecosystem-based approach to ocean management. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development thus called for the “application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach,” and “promotion of integrated coastal and ocean management at the national level” and “encouragement and assistance to countries in developing ocean policies and mechanisms on integrated coastal management.”

RECOMMENDATION 3: Adequate and nested strategies at different scales (from local to global) must be developed for Ecosystem-based Ocean and Coastal Management at Local, National, and Regional Levels, and in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

The definition and implementation of these strategies need to be fully supported/underpinned by common tools and techniques, knowledge, monitoring and assessments, financial mechanisms, and evaluation for use by decision-makers. The UN should advance discussions on options for moving toward integrated ecosystem-based management of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), particularly in terms of the recognition of common principles of ocean governance, standards and procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment, and designation of marine protected areas in ABNJ.

A Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment under the United

Nations is needed and should be established as soon as possible. The Regular Process should be coordinated with the work of the IPBES.

As it is clear that the engagement of Parliamentarians is essential as a means to support the enactment of legislation on integrated oceans governance in countries around the world, and following initial discussions on this question by Parliamentarians at the Global Oceans Conference 2010, the Global Forum will facilitate the establishment of an international network of Ocean Parliamentarians.

4. Next Steps for the Global Oceans Agenda

The Global Forum will convey these messages at the different international fora where oceans are to be discussed, including the Special Session of the UN General Assembly (September 22, 2010), and in particular through the organization of Oceans Days at the:

- 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10) to be held in Nagoya, Japan (October 19-29, 2010)
- 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16) in Cancun, Mexico (November 29-December 10, 2010)

Global Oceans Conference 2010 Program:
<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOC5-FinalProgram.pdf>
Conference Summary Report (IISD Reporting Services):
<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/ymbvol68num5e.pdf>
Policy Brief on Oceans and Climate Change:
<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/PolicyBrief-Climate-Oceans.pdf>
Policy Brief on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas:
http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/BiodiversityPB_4web.pdf
Policy Brief on Improving Governance:
<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/PolicyBrief-EBM-ICM.pdf>

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