



CBD COP-12

MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

WWF Coordination on CBD, September 2014

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
6 - 17 October 2014 - Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea

Agenda Item 21: Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

WWF key messages

WWF calls upon COP-12 to adopt the draft decision contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Add.2 with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity taking into consideration the changes suggested by WWF on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas/EBSAs (see below).

In particular, WWF urges Parties to:

1. Endorse the results from the various regional workshops on the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria reflecting the best available scientific information and to welcome the corresponding workshop reports in their entirety.
2. Ensure that the process of describing areas meeting the EBSA criteria will be continued to encompass the remaining regions where workshops have not yet been held with a view to cover all oceans and seas.
3. Agree on future work towards compiling scientific and technical information on the types and levels of human uses in areas described as meeting the EBSA criteria and in adjacent or associated areas that could potentially impact these areas or their biological components.
4. Seek ways and means to cooperate, including through competent organizations, to identify and adopt, according to their competence, appropriate measures for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas that meet the EBSA criteria.
5. Adopt the recommendations on addressing impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of anthropogenic underwater noise as proposed by SBSTTA-18, and further to immediately implement appropriate measures to factually reduce the level of underwater noise in the marine environment.
6. Adopt the recommendations referring to ocean acidification, priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystem, and marine spatial planning and training initiatives as proposed by SBSTTA-18.

WWF welcomes the draft decision on marine and coastal biodiversity as set out in UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Add.2 and calls on COP-12 to consider for inclusion the following proposed text changes with regards to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in its final decision:

New text proposed by WWF is presented in bold and underlined. Text that WWF recommends to delete is highlighted with ~~strike through~~.

Item 21. Marine and coastal biodiversity

The following is taken from recommendation XVIII/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision X/29, in particular paragraphs 25 and 26, and decision XI/17, in particular paragraphs 6 and 12,

Also recalling that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out,

Reiterating the central role of the General Assembly of the United Nations in addressing issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction,

1. ~~{Welcomes **with appreciation**}~~ ~~{Takes note of}~~ the scientific and technical evaluation of information contained in the reports of the regional workshops for describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held in seven regions: Southern Indian Ocean (Flic en Flac, Mauritius, 31 July-3 August 2012);¹ Eastern Tropical and Temperate Pacific (Galapagos, Ecuador, 28-31 August 2012);² North Pacific (Moscow, Russian Federation, 25 February-1 March 2013);³ South-Eastern Atlantic (Swakopmund, Namibia, 8-12 April 2013);⁴ Arctic (Helsinki, Finland, 3-7 March 2014)⁵ North-West Atlantic (Montreal, Canada, 24-28 March 2014);⁶ and Mediterranean (Málaga, Spain, 3-7 April 2014);⁷

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to all donors, hosting countries and collaborating organizations involved in the organization of the regional workshops referred to above;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include the summary reports prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eighteenth meeting, annexed to the present decision,⁸ in the EBSA repository, and to submit them, prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to the General Assembly of the United Nations and particularly its 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, as well as to Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations in line with the purpose and procedures set out in decisions X/29 and XI/17;

4. *Notes* that there is an ongoing scientific and technical process applying the EBSA criteria in the North-East Atlantic;

¹ UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/SIO/1/4.

² UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/ETTP/1/4.

³ UNEP/CBD/EBSA/NP/1/4.

⁴ UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/SEA/1/4.

⁵ UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2014/1/5.

⁶ UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2014/2/4.

⁷ UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2014/3/4.

⁸ Not including the areas in the annex that are bracketed, pending the conclusion of the required national processes or consultations, as indicated by the footnotes to those areas.

5. *Recalls* the sovereign right of coastal states over their territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and *recognizes* that the sharing of the outcomes of the EBSA process does not prejudice the sovereign rights of coastal states;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in line with paragraph 36 of decision X/29 and paragraph 12 of decision XI/17, to continue to facilitate the description of areas meeting the criteria for EBSAs through the organization of additional regional or subregional workshops where Parties wish workshops to be held;

7. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments to undertake national exercises, as appropriate, to describe areas meeting the EBSA criteria, or other relevant compatible and complementary nationally or intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria in areas within national jurisdiction, taking into account States' own established processes within their respective jurisdictions, and to make this information, and other relevant information, available through the EBSA repository or information-sharing mechanism, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report on progress prior to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to make use, as appropriate, of the scientific information regarding the description of areas meeting EBSA criteria, including the information in the EBSA repository and information-sharing mechanism, when carrying out **environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments**, marine spatial planning, development of representative networks of marine protected areas, taking into account annex II to decision IX/20, and application of other area-based management measures in marine and coastal areas, with a view to contributing to national efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

9. *Welcoming* United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/70, on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, further *invites*, in this context, the United Nations General Assembly as well as other competent intergovernmental and international organizations to make use of the scientific information included in the EBSA repository regarding the descriptions of areas meeting the EBSA criteria in the implementation of their respective mandates;

Option 1

{10. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary **in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, other competent bodies and agencies within their respective mandates** to explore options, ways and means with a view to ~~undertaking~~ **compiling** scientific and technical analysis **information on** ~~of the status of marine and coastal biodiversity in relation to~~ the types and levels of human activity in areas described as meeting the EBSA criteria contained in the EBSA repository, **or in adjacent or associated areas and likely to impact identified values within such areas** and **for use of that information in collaboration with those States and organizations in efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and** to report on progress to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice};

Option 2

~~{10alt. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with States and international and intergovernmental organizations in their areas of competence, to explore options, ways and means with a view to tabulating information on the types and levels of human activities in areas described as meeting the EBSA criteria contained in the EBSA repository, and for use of that information in collaboration with those States and organizations in efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to report on progress to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice};~~

Option 3

[10.ter.] *Note: There is an option to delete paragraph 10 entirely;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, including regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations with regard to fisheries management, to facilitate technical training, including the organization of regional and/or subregional capacity-building workshops on the compilation and use of scientific and technical information contained in the EBSA repository and information-sharing mechanism,⁹ and other relevant information, with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to report on progress to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, building upon the existing scientific guidance and drawing upon the lessons learned from the series of regional workshops to facilitate the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria and views gathered from Parties and other Governments, to develop practical options for further work on the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria, ensuring that the best available scientific and technical information and traditional knowledge are used and that the products are scientifically sound, up-to-date and **in-depth**, and to report on progress to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to address scientific gaps and capacity-building needs with regard to marine biodiversity in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States as well as countries with economies in transition, and *recognizing* the gaps in scientific information regarding the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria, *requests* the Executive Secretary and *encourages* Parties to collaborate with other international scientific bodies including, inter alia, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, to address knowledge gaps and lack of scientific information regarding the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria;

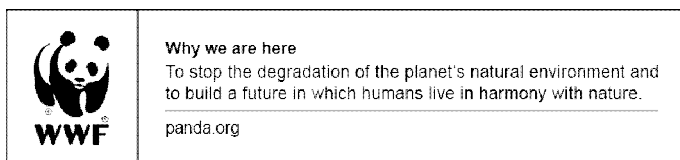
14. *Recalling* paragraph 24 of decision XI/17, *recognizes* the importance of traditional knowledge as a source of information for describing areas meeting the EBSA criteria, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the participation of indigenous and local communities, with a view to their full and effective participation in the process.

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⁹ Not including the areas in the annex that are bracketed, pending the conclusion of the required national processes or consultations, as indicated by the footnotes to those areas.