

## **Implementation of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, including the CBD multi-year programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity**

In 1998, the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted decision IV/5, containing a multi-year programme of work for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. Further priorities for the programme of work were adopted by the fifth meeting of the COP in decision V/3. These priorities concerned, in particular, the incorporation of coral bleaching into the programme of work, and led to the development of a specific work plan on coral bleaching, and elements for a work plan on physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs.

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity approved the continued implementation of the specific work plan on coral bleaching and the elaboration and implementation of the work plan on physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs (decision VI/3), and requested continued cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in regard to coral reefs (decision VI/20). COP also urged the strengthening of collaboration between the Secretariat and regional seas conventions and action plans, and such collaboration is being actively sought by the Secretariat. The work plan on coral bleaching is now being implemented, and closer ties are being developed between the Secretariat and relevant organizations, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its partners, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC). In this regard, the Secretariat became a co-sponsor of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), and is collaborating with the Second International Tropical Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS 2). As a result of decision VI/3, coral reefs will continue to be a priority issue in the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has conducted two meetings of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas. This international expert group considered and finalized its work on the values and effects of marine and coastal protected areas, and linkages between marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use. As part of this work, the Expert Group proposed a framework for sustainable management of marine and coastal biological diversity, including a network of highly protected areas covering both areas inside and outside of national jurisdiction. Additionally, the Expert Group proposed a global goal for the Convention in relation to marine and coastal protected area networks, corresponding to paragraphs 31 (a) and (c) of the WSSD Plan of Implementation. The Expert Group also prepared recommendations for further research, including pilot projects.

The Secretariat conducted a meeting of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Mariculture. This meeting, which was held in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), evaluated the current state of scientific and technological knowledge on the effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity, and provided guidance on criteria, methods and techniques to avoid the adverse effects of mariculture on biodiversity, while enhancing any positive effects. The Expert Group agreed that even though all forms of mariculture affect biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level, a number of techniques are available to minimize such effects. These techniques include proper site selection, optimal management (including proper feeding), culturing different species together (polyculture), and the use of enclosed, and especially re-circulating, systems. It was also agreed that under certain circumstances mariculture could enhance biodiversity locally. The work of this

Expert Group, as well as the Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, will be presented for the consideration of the eighth meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), to be held from 10-14 March 2003.

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (UNDOALOS), has undertaken a study of the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources on the deep seabed. The study reviews the provisions of the two conventions as they relate to the conservation and sustainable use of the genetic resources of the deep seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. The study notes, however, that whereas the provisions of the two conventions are complementary and mutually-supportive regarding the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, an important legal lacuna exists with respect to commercially-oriented activities relating to marine genetic resources in the high seas. This lacuna will need to be addressed by the international community given the increasing importance of the genetic resources in these areas and the risk of their over-exploitation without due regard to conservation and equity imperatives.

The Secretariat has finalized a review of the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity adopted in decision IV/5. This review is based on National Reports and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans submitted by Parties, and on questionnaires sent to international and regional organizations. The review also considered actions undertaken by the Executive Secretary in facilitating the implementation of the programme of work. The main conclusion of the review was that although progress has been made in the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, much still remains to be done to achieve its full implementation, and to halt the decline in marine and coastal biological diversity globally. The review provided suggestions for potential refinement of the programme of work, based on priorities identified by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, by Parties, and by international organizations. The review will be presented for the consideration of the eighth meeting of the SBSTTA.