

Annex

Part I. Developments and issues under the CBD relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, and the role of seafood in global food security

INTRODUCTION

1. This note consists of brief descriptions of the work carried out under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the following areas related to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in focusing on those relating to the role of seafood in global food security: (i) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; (ii) improving sustainable management of fisheries; (iii) supporting the implementation of other agreements and plans of action for sustainable fisheries; (iv) collaboration, capacity-building, and biodiversity mainstreaming; and (v) relevant expert processes.

2. This contribution includes a detailed description of the work carried out under the CBD, within the framework of the elaborated Programme of Work on marine and coastal biological diversity (annex I to decision VII/5), related to the role of seafood in global food security, as well as an executive summary of the full contribution, as per the guidance provided.

3. *Executive Summary*

Work under the CBD has focused on sustainable fisheries to support global food security. This focus on sustainable fisheries is embodied in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and especially in Aichi Biodiversity Target 6, which aims to ensure that, by 2020, all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches. In 2010, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted decision X/29 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-10/cop-10-dec-29-en.pdf>), in which COP identified means to achieve this target, including by implementing the ecosystem approach, eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, minimizing the detrimental impacts of fishing practices, and mitigating and managing by-catch. COP in its decision X/29 further encouraged Parties and other Governments to implement United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/72 on bottom fishing and deep-sea fish stocks and also urged them to consider ratifying the FAO agreement on Port States measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to implement the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, as well as relevant FAO international plans of action and to develop national or regional plans of action or equivalent. As a means to facilitate the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 and other Targets relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, which is coordinated by the SCBD in collaboration with various partners, was created in 2010 as a platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity.

In 2012, COP adopted decision XI/18, in which COP encouraged inter-agency collaboration between biodiversity and fisheries bodies and the participation by a range of experts on biodiversity, indigenous and local communities in fisheries management, and invited fisheries management bodies to integrate biodiversity considerations into their work.

The CBD Secretariat has also convened expert processes on sustainable fisheries. In 2011, the CBD Secretariat convened, in collaboration with FAO, UNEP and the Fisheries Experts Group of the IUCN Commission of Ecosystem Management, a Joint Expert Meeting on Addressing Biodiversity Concerns in Sustainable Fisheries. The meeting reviewed and proposed options to address biodiversity concerns in fisheries management. This meeting drew on the results of the CBD Secretariat's collaboration with FAO and UNEP in compiling information on the impacts of destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing on marine biodiversity and habitats, which was reviewed at the FAO/UNEP Expert Meeting on Impacts of Destructive Fishing Practices, Unsustainable Fishing, and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing on Marine Biodiversity and Habitats.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

4. **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.** The vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting in 2010 (COP 10), is that "by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people." The Strategic Plan aims to achieve this vision through twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>), which provide guidance on the measures and enabling conditions needed to improve conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The critical role of seafood in global food security can be supported through the achievement of a combination of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in the context of the Strategic Plan. During COP 10, Parties committed to review, and as appropriate update and revise, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), in line with the Strategic Plan. In light of this decision, the CBD Secretariat, with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund, organized a series of sub-regional workshops to assist Parties to revise their NBSAPs and to include national targets. In addition, in 2013 a global workshop was organized to review the revision process (<http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/global/default.shtml>). As of June 2013, over 130 Parties eligible for assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the Financial Mechanism of the CBD, have initiated the process of accessing and using GEF Enabling Activity (EA) funds, and other funds, to facilitate this process of updating NBSAPs, in addition to developing their 5th National Reports and strengthening their Clearing-House Mechanisms (CHMs).

5. **Aichi Biodiversity Target 6.** The CBD's focus on sustainable fisheries is embodied in Aichi Biodiversity Target 6. Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 aims to ensure that, 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 species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

6. **The other Aichi Biodiversity Targets.** Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 is one of the targets under Goal B of the Strategic Plan: "Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use." Other targets of particular relevance to marine biodiversity are Targets 8, 9, and 10. Aichi Biodiversity Target 8 aims to ensure that, by 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. The focus of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 is to ensure that, by 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment. Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 aims to ensure that, 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. As well, Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 facilitates countries to expedite their current efforts to protect important fish habitat and restore depleted fish stocks, as it focuses on achieving, by 2020, conservation, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, of at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and integration of these areas into the wider landscapes and seascapes. In addition, the targets under Goal A address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society through public awareness (Target 1), integration of biodiversity values into national planning and accounting (Target 2), reform of incentives (Target 3), and sustainable production and consumption (Target 4).

IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES

7. **Addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, destructive fishing practices, and by-catches and discards.** At its tenth meeting in 2010, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted decision X/29 in which COP encouraged Parties to undertake efforts, in collaboration with the Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and relevant international and regional organizations, including regional fisheries management organizations, as appropriate, and in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to ensure the sustainability of fisheries, by managing the impacts of fisheries on species and the wider ecosystem to achieve the outcomes of Target 6 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, by implementing the ecosystem approach; eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; minimizing the detrimental impacts of fishing practices; mitigating and managing by-catches sustainably and reducing discards, in order to attain a sustainable exploitation level of marine fishery resources and thereby contributing to a good environmental status in marine and coastal waters (paragraph 13(g)).

8. ***Sustainable fisheries in the context of coastal communities.*** COP, in its decision X/29, also encouraged Parties and other Governments to take appropriate measures, where necessary, to improve the sustainability of harvesting of coastal and inshore marine resources so that overfishing is avoided; such measures should be undertaken together with coastal communities dependent on these resources, and mindful of socio-economic constraints, with the aim to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 6; and urged Parties, other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in a position to do so, to support capacity-building in this area, for developing countries, in particular the least-developed coastal and small island developing States (paragraph 56).

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER AGREEMENTS AND PLANS OF ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

9. ***Encouraging the implementation of UNGA Resolution 64/72.*** COP, in its decision X/29, also encouraged Parties and other Governments to fully and effectively implement paragraphs 113 through 130 of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/72 on responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem, addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular paragraphs 119 and 120 of the resolution, calling on States and/or regional fisheries management organizations, consistent with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas and consistent with the precautionary approach, to conduct impact assessments, conduct further marine scientific research and use the best scientific and technical information available to identify areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems are known or likely to occur, either adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems or close such areas to fishing, and adopt measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks (both target- and non-target stocks), and not to authorize bottom-fishing activities until such measures have been adopted and implemented (paragraph 54).

10. ***Supporting other relevant fisheries-related agreements and plans of action.*** COP, in the same decision, urged Parties and other Governments to consider ratifying the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations agreement on Port States measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to implement, where applicable, the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, particularly in relation to the application of the ecosystem and precautionary approaches and the elimination of overcapacity, as well as relevant FAO international plans of action (IPOAs) and develop national or regional plans of action or equivalent in order to mitigate the impacts of overcapacity of fishing fleets, destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations, as appropriate (paragraph 55).

COLLABORATION, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

11. ***Inter-agency collaboration and meaningful participation.*** In 2011, COP adopted decision XI/18 (<http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13179>), in which COP noted the need for further improvement and implementation of the ecosystem approach in fisheries management by enhancing the capacity of these fisheries management organizations, constructive inter-agency collaboration, and full

and meaningful participation by a wide range of experts on biodiversity, indigenous and local communities, taking into consideration Article 8(j) and 10(c) of the Convention, and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the fisheries management process (paragraph 2).

12. ***Sustainable Ocean Initiative.*** In decision X/29, COP emphasized the need for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties through workshops that contribute to sharing experiences and knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity (paragraph 37). Pursuant to this need, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) was formed on the margins of the tenth meeting of the COP in 2010. SOI, which is coordinated by the SCBD in collaboration with various partners, provides a global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity. SOI is focused especially on facilitating information sharing, creating partnerships for targeted capacity-building to support implementation, enhancing interactive communication among stakeholders in different sectors, and monitoring progress on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity, including Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on sustainable fisheries. In 2013, CBD Secretariat convened, within the framework of SOI and generously funded by Japan Biodiversity Fund, in collaboration with FAO and many other global and regional partners, a regional workshop for the West African region (4-8 February, 2013, Dakar, Senegal) and a regional workshop for the East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asian region (9-13 December, 2013, Guangzhou, China) focused on building capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity. CBD Secretariat plans to convene additional regional workshops in other regions, in collaboration with Parties and various global and regional partners.

13. ***Integrating biodiversity considerations into fisheries.*** Additionally, in decision XI/18, COP encouraged constructive collaboration between biodiversity and fisheries bodies, and invited fisheries management bodies at national and regional levels, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to ensure that biodiversity considerations are a part of their work (paragraph 3). The CBD Secretariat continues to collaborate with the FAO and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in integrating biodiversity considerations into fisheries management at various levels, including through the framework of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and the regional workshops to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs).

RELEVANT EXPERT PROCESSES

14. ***Report on impacts of destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing on marine biodiversity and habitats.*** In 2009, the CBD Secretariat collaborated in the compilation of a report on the impacts of destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing on marine biodiversity and habitats, which was reviewed at the FAO/UNEP Expert Meeting on Impacts of Destructive Fishing Practices, Unsustainable Fishing, and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing on Marine Biodiversity and Habitats (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-14/information/sbstta-14-inf-06-en.pdf>). The report of this expert meeting was considered, at its fourteenth meeting, by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA/14) of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010 and submitted to COP 10.

15. ***Joint expert meeting on addressing biodiversity concerns in sustainable fisheries.*** In 2011, the Executive Secretary of the CBD convened, in collaboration with FAO, UNEP and the Fisheries Experts Group of the IUCN Commission of Ecosystem Management, a Joint Expert Meeting on Addressing Biodiversity Concerns in Sustainable Fisheries (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/jem-bcsf-01/official/jem-bcsf-01-sbstta-16-inf-13-en.pdf>). The meeting reviewed the extent to which biodiversity concerns are addressed in fishery assessments and proposed options to address biodiversity concerns in sustainable fishery management. The report of this expert meeting was considered, at its 16th meeting, by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD in 2010 and submitted to COP 11.

