

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

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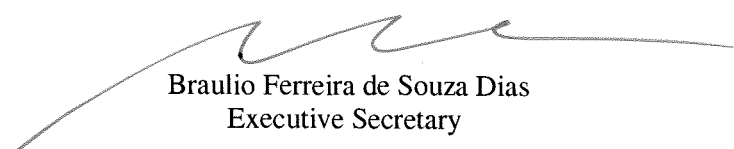
Dear Ms. Goettsche-Wanli,

I would like to refer to the letter of Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, dated 10 December 2014, inviting the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to provide input to the Secretary-General's Report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-ninth session.

Appended herewith is the contribution of the CBD Secretariat to Part I of the report containing information on the topic of the sixteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, "oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely environmental, social and economic."

I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,



Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Attachment

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Annex

Part I. Developments and issues under the CBD relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, and oceans and sustainable development

INTRODUCTION

1. This note contains brief descriptions of the work carried out under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) related to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, focusing on work relating to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. It addresses the following: (i) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; (ii) twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD and the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4); (iii) enhancing the scientific information base to support conservation and sustainable use; (iv) facilitating sustainable human activities; (v) facilitating integrated planning and management of marine and coastal biodiversity; (vi) collaboration, participation, partnerships and capacity-building; and (vii) supporting intergovernmental discussions on sustainable development.

2. *Executive Summary*

The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 12) adopted decisions related to biodiversity and sustainable development, and welcomed the Fourth Edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4), which assessed progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and addressed the importance of biodiversity in sustainable development. The theme of COP 12 and its High-Level Segment was "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development".

Work carried out under the CBD on marine and coastal biodiversity supports sustainable development in various ways, including work on enhancing the scientific information base for conservation and sustainable use, facilitating sustainable human activities and integrated planning and management. In particular, work under the CBD focuses on facilitating the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) through a series of regional workshops. The Secretariat has also published an updated scientific synthesis on the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity.

Work under the CBD also includes the development of guidance, through expert workshops, on means to minimize and mitigate the impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity. An expert workshop on marine spatial planning discussed gaps in existing guidance and toolkits, as well as means to fill these gaps. COP also adopted, in decision XII/23, priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, which aim to address the need to strengthen efforts to manage coral reefs as socio-ecological systems undergoing change due to the interactive effects of multiple global and local stressors.

Developments under the CBD have also addressed collaboration, participation, partnerships and capacity-building. This includes specific COP decisions addressing collaboration on the use of the scientific information related to the description of EBSAs (decision XII/22), anthropogenic underwater noise, priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, and marine spatial planning (decision XII/23). The CBD is also facilitating capacity-building to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for marine and coastal biodiversity through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. Finally, developments under the CBD have addressed the integration of biodiversity in the discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, including through decision XII/4 ("Integrating biodiversity into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the sustainable development goals").

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

3. *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, 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 five Strategic Goals and 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 integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, in the context of oceans, can be supported through the achievement of the vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

4. ***Aichi Biodiversity Targets.*** There are a number of Aichi Targets that are especially relevant to oceans and sustainable development. Under Strategic Goal B ("Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use"), 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. As well, 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. 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. The targets under Strategic Goal C ("To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity") are highly relevant as well. Target 11 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. Target 12 aims to ensure that, by 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained. Target 13 aims to ensure that, by 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity. In addition, the targets under Strategic Goal A are important to the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, as they seek to 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), reforming incentives (Target 3) and implementing sustainable production and consumption (Target 4). The targets under Strategic Goal D are also relevant as they seek to enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services, namely through the restoration and safeguarding of ecosystems that provide essential services (Target 14), the enhancement of ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks through conservation and restoration (Target 15), and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, consistent with national legislation (Target 16). Strategic Goal E and its targets focus on enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building, in particular through the implementation of effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (Target 17), the integration of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention (Target 18), the improvement and sharing of knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends (Target 19), and the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources (Target 20).

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CBD AND THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK (GBO-4)

5. **Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.** The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 12) was held from 6 to 17 October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. The theme of COP 12 and its High-Level Segment was “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development”. COP 12 conducted a mid-term review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and outlined future steps needed to achieve the Targets. This includes two decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity (decision XII/22 on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas; and decision XII/23 on impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of anthropogenic underwater noise and ocean acidification, priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, and marine spatial planning and training initiatives), and a number of other decisions relevant to the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development. The outcomes of COP 12 are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=cop-12>.

6. **Decisions on the integration of biodiversity and sustainable development.** At its twelfth meeting, COP adopted decisions focused specifically on the integration of biodiversity and sustainable development. In particular, through decision XII/4, COP stressed the need for the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and sustainable development goals to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to tackle the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss. Also, the Chennai Guidance for the Integration of Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication was developed prior to COP 12 and subsequently welcomed by the COP at this meeting (decision XII/5).

7. **Fourth Edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4).** The fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4), the flagship publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity, was officially launched on the opening day of COP 12, and was welcomed by the COP at this meeting. GBO-4 provides an assessment of progress towards meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and potential actions to accelerate that progress, and outlines the importance of biodiversity in meeting broader goals for sustainable human development during this century. GBO-4 is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/gbo4>.

ENHANCING THE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION BASE TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE

8. **Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.** The Conference of the Parties, at its tenth meeting, established a global process for describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) through the application of scientific criteria in annex I of decision IX/20 as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria (decision X/29). Since 2011, the CBD Secretariat has convened nine regional workshops to facilitate the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria, pursuant to CBD decisions X/29 and XI/17. These workshops covered nearly 70% of world ocean areas, including marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, and involved about 122 countries and 113 organizations, with some attending more than one workshop.

9. **COP 12 decision on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.** At its twelfth meeting, COP welcomed the outputs of the seven regional EBSA workshops held since its eleventh meeting. These workshops were for the following regions

- a. Southern Indian Ocean (Flic en Flac, Mauritius, 31 July to 3 August 2012);¹
- b. Eastern Tropical and Temperate Pacific (Galapagos, Ecuador, 28 to 31 August 2012);²
- c. North Pacific (Moscow, Russian Federation, 25 February to 1 March 2013);³
- d. South-Eastern Atlantic (Swakopmund, Namibia, 8 to 12 April 2013);⁴

¹ Report and documentation available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSA-SIO-01>.

² Report and documentation available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSA-ETTP-01>.

³ Report and documentation available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSA-NP-01>.

⁴ Report and documentation available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSA-SEA-01>.

- e. Arctic (Helsinki, Finland, 3 to 7 March 2014);⁵
- f. North-West Atlantic (Montreal, Canada, 24 to 28 March 2014);⁶ and
- g. Mediterranean (Málaga, Spain, 7 to 11 April 2014).⁷

Combined with the outputs of the two regional EBSA workshops that were considered by the COP at its eleventh meeting, a total of 204 areas have been described as meeting the EBSA criteria and requested by COP to be included in the CBD EBSA repository. Pursuant to a request by the COP, the summary reports on the outputs of the seven regional EBSA workshops considered by COP at its twelfth meeting will be submitted to the General Assembly and its relevant Working Groups. The scientific information used in the description of these areas will be made available online through the EBSA website and repository (<http://www.cbd.int/ebsa>). The Secretariat will convene additional regional EBSA workshops for the North-East Indian Ocean region in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 22 to 27 March 2015, and the North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 19 to 24 April 2015.

10. *Synthesis of the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity.* In decision XI/18, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, relevant scientific groups, other relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities on the preparation of a systematic review document on the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity and ecosystem functions, which will provide a targeted synthesis of the biodiversity implications of ocean acidification for marine and coastal systems, building upon the synthesis provided in CBD Technical Series No. 46. Pursuant to this request, the Secretariat published CBD Technical Series No. 75: *An Updated Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity* (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-75-en.pdf>), which was originally made available as an information document to the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 18) of the Convention on Biological Diversity; following additional revision, it was subsequently published as CBD Technical Series No. 75.

FACILITATING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN ACTIVITIES

11. *Sustainable fisheries.* Various aspects of sustainable fisheries have been addressed through the work carried out under the CBD. At its tenth meeting in 2010, the COP adopted decision X/29, which 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)). In its decision X/29, the COP 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; the COP encouraged Parties to undertake such measures together with coastal communities dependent on these resources, and to be mindful of socio-economic constraints, with the aim to achieve 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). In 2011, the Executive Secretary of the CBD

⁵ Report and documentation available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2014-01>.

⁶ Report and documentation available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2014-02>.

⁷ Report and documentation available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2014-03>.

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, held in Bergen, Norway, from 7 to 9 December 2011. 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 (available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/jem-bcsf-01/official/jem-bcsf-01-sbstta-16-inf-13-en.pdf>) was welcomed by the COP at its eleventh meeting in 2012.

12. ***Addressing impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity.*** Pursuant to decision XI/18, the Executive Secretary convened an Expert Workshop on Underwater Noise and its Impacts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 25 to 27 February 2014. The workshop focused on improving and sharing knowledge on underwater noise and its impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity, and discussed practical guidance and toolkits to minimize and mitigate the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, including marine mammals, in order to assist Parties and other Governments in applying management measures, as appropriate (workshop report available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/mcbem-2014-01/official/mcbem-2014-01-02-en.pdf>). At its 12th meeting, CBD COP welcomed the report of the expert workshop and encouraged Parties, other Governments and other relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to minimize and mitigate the potential significant adverse impacts of noise. COP also requested the Secretariat to further facilitate collaboration among Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations on measures to minimize and mitigate the potential significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, and to compile and synthesize relevant scientific and technical information on underwater noise, as well as information on related measures taken by Parties, other Governments and competent organizations.

13. ***Addressing impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity.*** Pursuant to decision XI/18, the Executive Secretary convened an Expert Workshop to Prepare Practical Guidance on Preventing and Mitigating the Significant Adverse Impacts of Marine Debris on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in Baltimore, United States of America, from 2 to 4 December 2014. The workshop reviewed the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and prepared practical guidance on preventing and mitigating significant adverse impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats. The outcomes of this workshop will be submitted to the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) for its consideration at its twentieth meeting in 2016.

FACILITATING INTEGRATED PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

14. ***Marine spatial planning.*** Pursuant to decision XI/18, the Executive Secretary convened, with financial support from the European Commission, an Expert Workshop to Provide Consolidated Practical Guidance and a Toolkit for Marine Spatial Planning, from 9 to 11 September 2014. The workshop discussed gaps in existing guidance and toolkits on marine spatial planning and means to fill these gaps in order to complement and further enhance the existing cross-sectoral efforts of Parties and other Governments on the application of the ecosystem approach to the implementation of integrated marine and coastal management, the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the design and establishment of conservation and management measures. The outcomes of this workshop will be submitted to the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its twentieth meeting in 2016.

15. ***Priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems.*** In 2014, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted, through decision XII/23, the priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems. The priority actions aim to address the urgent need to consolidate and further strengthen current efforts at local, national, regional and global levels to manage coral reefs as socio-ecological systems undergoing change due to the interactive effects of multiple stressors, including both global stressors (rising sea

temperatures and ocean acidification) as well as local stressors (overfishing, destructive fishing practices, coastal development, tourism and recreational use). The priority actions focus on maintaining sustainable livelihoods and food-security in reef-dependent coastal communities, including indigenous and local communities.

COLLABORATION, PARTICIPATION, PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

16. **Inter-agency collaboration.** COP 12 addressed the importance of cooperation among various bodies with regards to marine and coastal biodiversity, including on the use of the scientific information regarding the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria (decision XII/22), anthropogenic underwater noise, priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems and marine spatial planning (decision XII/23), among other topics. COP 12 also adopted a decision focused on improving cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives (decision XII/6). As well, COP adopted decision XI/18 in 2012, which noted the need for further improvement and implementation of the ecosystem approach in fisheries management by enhancing constructive inter-agency collaboration.

17. **Full and effective participation.** In decision XII/22, COP encouraged Parties to promote the use of the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities at the national level, with their full and effective participation, in support of the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria and requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the participation of indigenous and local communities, including fisheries communities, with a view to ensuring their full and effective participation in regional or subregional workshops on the description of areas meeting the criteria for EBSAs. In decision XI/18, COP noted the need for further improvement and implementation of the ecosystem approach in fisheries management by enhancing the 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.

18. **Sustainable Ocean Initiative.** In response to the need for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties called for in various COP decisions, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) was formed on the margins of the tenth meeting of the COP in 2010 as a global platform to engage partnerships and facilitate capacity development in order to help accelerate countries' efforts toward the achievement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for marine and coastal biodiversity. SOI, which is being coordinated by the SCBD in collaboration with various partners, 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 facilitating the monitoring of progress on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity. In 2013, CBD Secretariat convened, within the framework of SOI and in collaboration with FAO and many other global and regional partners, a regional capacity-building workshop for the West African region (4-8 February, 2013, Dakar, Senegal) and a regional capacity-building workshop for the East Asian, South Asian and Southeast Asian region (9-13 December, 2013, Guangzhou, China) focused on building capacity to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity. In 2014, the CBD Secretariat convened the SOI Global Partnership Meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 3 to 4 October. This meeting prepared the SOI Action Plan 2015-2020, which was subsequently launched at the SOI High-level Meeting held during COP 12 on 16 October 2014 (SOI Action Plan 2015-2020 available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/soiom-2014-02/official/soiom-2014-02-actionplan-en.pdf>). The SOI Action Plan 2015-2020 outlines a number of capacity-building activities to be held in the coming years, including regional- and national-level capacity-building workshops, training of trainers and an online information-sharing mechanism. In particular, the CBD Secretariat is co-organizing, together with the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Peru, the SOI Capacity-building Workshop for South America, which will be held in Lima, Peru from 23 to 27 February 2015. The Secretariat will convene additional regional capacity-building workshops for the South Pacific, the Western Indian Ocean and the Caribbean regions in 2015 and 2016.

SUPPORTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

19. ***COP 12 decision on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.*** At its twelfth meeting, COP welcomed the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem aspects into the sustainable development goals developed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and requested the Executive Secretary to continue the collaboration, with key partners, to actively contribute to the discussions on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the sustainable development goals (decision XII/4). Furthermore, the High-Level Segment of COP 12 adopted the Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, which, among other items, reaffirms the commitment of the Parties to the CBD to provide financial resources and incentives to expedite implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan at the national or sub-national level.

20. ***Scientific and technical support for the discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.*** The CBD Secretariat provided scientific and technical support to the discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals throughout its deliberations. Marine and coastal biodiversity is reflected in the various ways throughout the proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals.

21. ***Scientific and technical support for the discussions of the 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.*** The CBD Secretariat has also provided scientific and technical support to the discussions of the 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 throughout its deliberations. The Secretariat will continue to provide scientific and technical support to future discussions on this topic under the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and other relevant processes under the UNGA, as appropriate.

22. ***Input to UN Technical Support Team (TST) issue briefs.*** The CBD Secretariat also provided input to the UN Technical Support Team (TST) in the development of thematic briefs developed to support the discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, including issue briefs on biodiversity and on oceans and seas (available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=1554&menu=35>).