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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON THE
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS, MARINE AND COASTAL
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, AND FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (DECISIONS IV/4,
IV/5, IV/7)

Criteria for the selection of marine and coastal protected areas

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Marine and coastal protected areas is programme element 3 (PE 3) in the programme of work on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision IV/5. The two operational objectives identified under this programme element are: (i) to facilitate research and monitoring activities related to the values and the effects of marine and coastal protected areas or similar restricted management areas on sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources (operational objective 3.1), and (ii) to develop criteria for the establishment of, and for management aspects of, marine protected areas (operational objective 3.2).

2. The present note is a review of the criteria currently used for the selection of marine and coastal biodiversity to be conserved in protected areas. The Executive Secretary has prepared this review to contribute to operational objective 3.2, activity (b) 1/ of programme element 3 (see decision IV/5). Section II outlines the general measures for the conservation of marine and coastal biological diversity. Section III describes the instruments and activities addressing marine and coastal protected areas at the international, regional and national levels. Section IV is a brief survey of criteria described in these instruments and

* UNEP/CBD/COP/5/1.

1/ Operational objective 3.2. Activity (b), states: "To assist in developing criteria for selection of marine and coastal protected areas, where critical habitats for marine living resources should be one important criterion."

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programmes. Finally, the note suggests some recommendations that COP may wish to consider in formulating its decision under agenda 16.1 on marine and coastal biodiversity.

3. During the preparation of the note, the Executive Secretary benefited from information and documents provided by various regional and international partner organizations, including, inter alia, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), The World Heritage Convention (WHC), The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the secretariats of other UNEP Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.

4. The Conference of the Parties may wish to request SBSTTA to develop criteria for the selection of marine and coastal biodiversity to be conserved in protected areas taking into account the list set out in Annex I of the Convention, other criteria available in existing instruments and processes, and the ecosystem approach;

II. GENERAL MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

5. The fundamental obligation of States to preserve the world's marine environment is stated in Article 192 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). States have the sovereign right to exploit their natural resources pursuant to their environmental policies and in accordance with their duty to protect and preserve the marine environment (Article 193). With regard to measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment, States are required to take necessary measures to protect and preserve areas of fragile ecosystems as well as the habitats of depleted, threatened or endangered species and other forms of marine life, as emphasized under Article 194, paragraph 5 of UNCLOS.

6. Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 requires that States should identify marine ecosystem exhibiting high levels of biodiversity and productivity and other critical habitat areas and should provide necessary limitations on use in these areas, through inter alia designation of protected areas.

7. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Contracting Parties are required, as far as possible and as appropriate, to establish a system of protected areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity and also develop guidelines for the selection, establishment, and management of such areas (Article 8 (a) and (b)). For this purpose, the Conference of the Parties to CBD at its second meeting, in 1995, endorsed marine and coastal protected areas as one of the five thematic issues and areas for action under decision II/10. At that meeting, the Ministerial Segment reached a consensus on the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. This consensus is commonly referred to as the "Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity." The other priority issues identified by COP at its second meeting were: integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM); Marine and coastal Living Resources (MCLR); Mariculture; and Alien Species.

8. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its seventh session in April 1999, encouraged States to establish and manage marine protected areas, along with other appropriate management tools, consistent with the provisions of UNCLOS and the programme of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity,

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in order to ensure the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable management and use of oceans.

9. Marine Protected Areas (MPA) have been identified as an essential tool for helping to conserve and restore marine ecosystem health. MPA may be set aside to conserve species and/or ecosystems. To best achieve the conservation objectives, a proper management plans and resources allocation need to be put in place following establishment of MPA.

10. Under Article 2 of the CBD, a protected area is defined as a "geographically defined area, which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives."

11. With regard to protected areas in the marine and coastal environment, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) defines MPA as "any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying waters and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by legislation or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment" (Resolution 17.38 of the IUCN General Assembly, 1988, reaffirmed in Resolution 19.46, 1994). This definition is intentionally very broad and encompasses areas established for a variety of purposes, including fishery management, provided they have complementary conservation objectives.

12. In addition, for the purposes of establishing management regimes, IUCN also developed a system of categories ^{2/} for protected area management that provides a common international agreed terminology, facilitating communication, information sharing, comparison, and analysis, as well as providing a useful basis for planning national protected areas systems. This system of categories is also being applied for the purpose of marine protected area management in some parts of the world.

III. INSTRUMENTS, PROCESSES, PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES ADDRESSING MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS

A. International instruments and processes

1. Biosphere reserves

13. A well-known example of an integrated approach to protected area management at the global level is the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). The programme calls for the establishment of "Biosphere Reserves" of various types throughout the world. Biosphere reserves are designated by national governments. Each reserve must meet a minimal set of criteria and adhere to a minimal set of conditions before being admitted to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere reserves have one or more core areas, which are securely protected sites for conserving biodiversity, monitoring minimally distributed ecosystems, and undertaking non-destructive

^{2/} Category Ia (Strict Nature Reserve: protected area managed mainly for science); Category Ib (Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection); Category II (National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation); Category III (Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features); Category IV (Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention); Category V (Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation); and Category VI (Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems) (IUCN, 1994).

research and other low impact uses. Multi-use buffer and the transition zones, which are managed for the economic benefit of local populations, surround these core zones. The three levels of biosphere reserves are international, national and individual. The worldwide network known as the World Network of Biosphere Reserves has nearly 400 sites in over 85 countries. The Network constitutes a tool for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components, thus contributing to the objectives of the CBD and other related conventions and instruments.

2. World Heritage Sites

14. The establishment and management of World Heritage sites under the World Heritage Convention are a mechanism used to provide protection to important ecosystems and habitats. The World Heritage Convention aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect worldwide heritage, which is of such universal value that its conservation is of concern to all people. Nomination of an area to the World Heritage status can provide significant impetus to conservation measures because it places an obligation on signatory nations to provide effective management. Member countries commit themselves to ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of World Heritage properties to future generations. As at December 1999, the List has inscribed 630 cultural and natural sites in 118 countries. The List includes both cultural and natural sites with small number being marine sites, and some containing a marine and coastal component.

3. The Ramsar Convention

15. This Convention requests its Contracting Parties to designate suitable wetlands within their territory for inclusion in the list of wetlands of international importance. As at November 1999, 1006 sites have been included in the list. Of these, nearly 50% of the sites include some marine and coastal components. ^{3/} The objective of the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance is "to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the ecological and hydrological functions they perform."

4. The International Maritime Organization (IMO)

16. The concept of MPA does not play a sufficient role in controlling ship-derived pollution. Special Sea Areas (SSA) (IMO, 1999) ^{4/} under MARPOL 73/78 are established where the particular region has specific environmental concerns such as those due to high density of shipping traffic. In these areas, more stringent standards for the discharge of oily waters are applicable, while the littoral States concerned are expected to provide adequate reception facilities for dirty ballast and other oily residues. The IMO also recognizes Particular Sensitive Seas Areas (PSSA) (IMO, 2000). A PSSA is an area, which needs special protection because it has high ecological or socio-economic or scientific importance and that it may be vulnerable to environmental damage by maritime activities. The PSSA is a qualification based on which protective measures may be taken (e.g., compulsory pilotage

^{3/} See also document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/12

^{4/} Special Areas is defined as a sea area where for recognized technical reasons in relation to its oceanographical and ecological condition and to the particular character of its traffic the adoption of special mandatory methods for prevention of sea pollution is required.

schemes and vessel traffic management systems). Two existing PSSA are the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Archipelago of Sabana-Camaguey in Cuba.

5. The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

17. The primary goal of the IUCN marine programme is to provide for the protection, restoration, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the marine heritage of the world in perpetuity through the creation and management of a global, representative system of marine protected areas in accordance with the principles of the World Conservation Strategy on human activities that use or affect the marine environment. IUCN, through its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), is actively supporting the development of marine protected areas as a tool for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Currently, the IUCN is updating its "guidelines for marine protected areas" and "a guide for planners and managers of marine and coastal protected areas."

B. Regional conventions

18. Under the UNEP regional seas programme, a number of regions including the South Pacific, Mediterranean, the Wider Caribbean, the Baltic, the North-East Atlantic, the South East Pacific and East Africa have developed some conventions, which include protocols to support the establishment of marine protected areas:

1. The Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention)

19. This Convention requires Contracting Parties to take "individually or jointly (...) all appropriate measures to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems and depleted, threatened or endangered flora and fauna as well as their habitats in the Convention Area" (Article 14), including in marine and coastal areas. The mechanism for providing such protection is for the Parties to "establish protected areas, such as parks and reserves, and prohibit or regulate any activity likely to have adverse effects on the species, ecosystems or biological processes that such areas are designed to protect."

2. The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (the SPAW Protocol)

20. Within the Wider Caribbean region, the SPAW Protocol under the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention) calls for the creation of a marine protected area network to conserve and restore habitats and their associated ecosystems (UNEP, Caribbean Environment Programme, 1996). The objective of the Protocol is to protect rare and fragile ecosystems and habitats, thereby protecting the endangered and threatened species residing therein.

3. The Protocol Concerning Special Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (under the Barcelona Convention)

21. This Protocol calls for each Party to take necessary measures to (i) protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable and environmental sound way areas of particular or cultural values, notably by the establishment of

special protected areas; and (ii) protect, preserve and manage threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna. In order to promote cooperation in the management and conservation of natural areas, as well as in the protection of threatened species and their habitats, the Parties shall draw up a "List of Specially Protected Areas of the Mediterranean Importance" (SPAMI list).

4. The Convention on Protection of the Marine Environment in the North-east Atlantic (OSPAR Convention)

22. Annex V to the OSPAR Convention specifically refers to the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity in the maritime areas. Contracting Parties are required to take necessary measures to protect and conserve the ecosystems and the biological diversity of the maritime area, and to restore, where practicable, marine areas which have been adversely affected by human activities.

5. The Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Baltic Convention)

23. In the framework of the Baltic Convention, the Helsinki Commission has developed Guidelines for Designating Marine and Coastal Baltic Protected Areas as well as Guidelines for Management of Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPAs).

6. The Antarctic Treaty System

24. The Antarctic Treaty System contains extensive legal obligations with respect to protected areas. Annex V to the 1991 Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty refers to "Area Protection and Management." The Parties to the Treaty are required to identify, within a systematic environment-geographical framework, and include in the network of "Antarctic Specially Protected Areas" *inter alia* (i) areas which are representative examples of major terrestrial and marine ecosystems, (ii) areas with important or unusual assemblages of species" and (iii) "the only known habitat of any species."

C. Initiatives at the national level

25. Many countries already have specific programmes and legal instruments covering marine protected areas. For example in Canada, the Marine protected Areas Program Policy provides the rationale for Department of Fisheries and Oceans' efforts with respect to identification, development, establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under the Ocean Act. The purposes of designated MPA are: (i) conservation and protection of commercial and non-commercial fisheries resources, including marine mammals and their habitats; (ii) conservation and protection of endangered or threatened marine species, and their habitats; (iii) conservation and protection of unique habitats; (iv) conservation and protection of marine areas of high biodiversity or biological productivity; and (v) conservation and protection of any other marine resource or habitat as is necessary to fulfill the mandate of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada's Oceans Act (section 35(1))

IV. CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS

A. Background

26. Criteria which are chosen for the selection of MCPA depend and reflect the management objectives that have been established within, or as part of, environmental and biodiversity policy (Salm and Chark, 1984). Nilsson (1998) suggested that the process of selecting areas employs criteria for two purposes: (i) evaluation criteria, used to identify and value areas that may be considered as MPA; and (ii) criteria for determination of priorities, used to rank areas in order to prepare a list of priorities. Salm and Prince (1995) also suggested that there are two functions of criteria for selection. Initially they serve to assess the eligibility of sites for protection status. Their principal role, however, is to order eligible sites according to priority in the selection process. The number of sites finally selected for protection will be determined by such factors as national policy, urgency for action, availability of financial and manpower resources and, in the case of some developing countries, the extent of international concern and assistance.

B. Criteria in the Convention for selection of
marine and coastal protected areas

27. There is no specific guidance from the Convention with regard to criteria of selection of marine protected areas, except the provision of critical habitats for marine living resources as important criterion for selection of marine and coastal protected areas, within the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management as mentioned in paragraph (iv), Annex I to decision II/10. Moreover, decision IV/5 reiterated that critical habitats for marine living resources should be one important criterion for selection of the marine and coastal protected areas (operational objective 3.2, activity (b) of the Jakarta Mandate Programme of Work).

28. The Convention on biological Diversity in its Annex I provides indicative list of categories on which in accordance to Article 7(a) of CBD (on identification and monitoring), Contracting Party shall, in particular for the purposes of Articles 8 to 10, identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use. To this end, the Annex I 5/ (in particular, part Annex I (i)) could be used as an indicative list of criteria for the purpose of assisting Parties in developing criteria for the selection of sites for MCPA. This indicative list also covers the need to pay special attention to the critical habitats for marine living resources as an important criterion for selection, as called for in operational objective 2.2 of the marine and coastal programme of work.

C. Criteria from existing instruments and processes
for the selection of marine and coastal
protected areas

5/ Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity:

(i) Ecosystem and habitats: containing high diversity, large number of endemic or threatened species or wilderness; required by migratory species; of social, economic, cultural or scientific importance; or, which are representative, unique or associated with key evolutionary or other biological processes;

(ii) Species and communities which are: threatened; wild relatives of domesticated or cultivated species; of medicinal, agricultural or other economic values; or social, scientific or cultural importance; or importance for research into conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, such as indicator species; and

(iii) Described genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance.

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29. The following are examples of criteria from existing instruments and processes for the selection of marine and coastal biodiversity for conservation in protected areas.

1. IUCN-The World Conservation Union

30. IUCN principles and criteria to guide the selection of marine and coastal areas include biogeographic criteria; ecological criteria; naturalness; economic, social and/or scientific importance; international or national significance; and practicality/or feasibility (Kelleher and Kenchington, 1992; Kelleher et al., 1995). These criteria are commonly used by countries and organizations in building their own guidelines for the selection of priority areas for establishment of marine and coastal protected areas.

2. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

31. At its seventh meeting in May 1999, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands adopted a Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (resolution VII.11) which also updated Ramsar site designation criteria. These guidelines are of direct relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity as they provide a systematic approach to future site designations under the Ramsar Convention in order to achieve the vision of "an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the ecological and hydrological functions they perform". 6/

32. The guidelines provide eight criteria to assess whether a wetland system is internationally important. These are applied for all types of wetlands under the Ramsar Convention (i.e. marine and coastal wetlands; inland wetlands and human-made wetlands). A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports or contains one of the eight criteria above-mentioned. For examples if it (i) supports vulnerable, endangered, or critical endangered species or threatened ecological communities; (ii) supports population of plants and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region; (iii) supports plants and/or animal species at a critical stage in their lifecycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions; and (iv) is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path.

3. The World Heritage Convention

33. The World Heritage Convention has developed criteria for the inclusion of natural properties in the World Heritage List, as contained in section D of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

34. Sites with natural heritage property (in accordance with Article 2 of the World Heritage Convention) to be nominated in the World Heritage List

6/ Within the Strategic Framework, Parties have agreed to give priority to designating under-represented wetland types which includes coral reefs, seagrass communities, mangroves, salt marshes, tidal mudflats, wet grasslands and peatlands. An Expert Working Group of Ramsar's Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) is presently developing specific guidance to assist Parties with the identification and designation of peatland, wet grassland, mangrove and coral reef wetland types as Ramsar sites.

should meet one or more of the criteria below, some of these criteria being relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity as well as fulfill their conditions of integrity: ^{7/}

(a) Be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

(b) Be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;

(c) Containing superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance; or

(d) Containing the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

4. The International Maritime Organization (IMO)

35. The International Maritime Organization has adopted two kinds of relevant measures/concepts, namely, Special Sea Areas (SSA) and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA), through which environmentally sensitive sea areas beyond the territorial sea can receive additional protection from pollution and other damages caused by shipping and related activities. Criteria for the designation of PSSA are described in the guidelines contained in resolution A.720 (17) of IMO. The criteria can also be used by national administrations to identify particularly sensitive sea areas within their territorial waters.

36. To be identified as a PSSA, the area should meet at least one of the following:

(a) Ecological criteria: uniqueness or rarity, critical habitat, dependency, representativeness, diversity, productivity, spawning or breeding grounds, naturalness, integrity and vulnerability;

(b) Social, cultural and economic criteria: economic benefit, recreation and human dependency;

(c) Scientific and educational criteria: research, baseline and monitoring studies, education and historical value.

5. The Protocol concerning Special Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean under the Barcelona Convention

37. This Protocol calls for establishment of a list of Specially Protected Areas of the Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI list), with the objective to promote cooperation in the management and conservation of natural areas, as well as in the protection of threatened species and their habitats. The SPAMI

^{7/} See Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, Section D, paragraph 44 (a) and (b).

List may include sites, which are of importance for conserving the component of biological diversity in the Mediterranean; contain ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area or the habitats of endangered species; and are of special interest at the scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational levels (Article 8, paragraph 2).

38. The objective of the Protocol with regard to protected areas in the Mediterranean is to safeguard:

(a) Representative types of coastal and marine ecosystems of adequate size to ensure their long-term viability and to maintain their biological diversity;

(b) Habitats that are in danger of disappearing in their natural areas of distribution in the Mediterranean or which have a reduced natural areas of distribution as a consequence of their regression or on account of their intrinsically restricted area;

(c) Habitats critical to the survival, reproduction and recovery of endangered, threatened or endemic species of flora or fauna; and

(d) Sites of particular importance because of their scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational interest.

39. The Protocol provides general criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI list). To be eligible for inclusion in the SPAMI list, an area must fulfill at least one of the general criteria:

(a) Be of importance for conserving biodiversity component;

(b) Contain ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area or habitats of endangered species; and

(c) Be of special interest at the scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational levels.

6. The SPAW Protocol under the Cartagena Convention

40. The UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme published in 1996 the Technical Report no. 37 entitled "Common Guidelines and Criteria for Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region: Identification, Selection, Establishment and Management", which revised guidelines previously adopted by the Governments of the region in 1995. These guidelines apply also to marine protected areas.

41. Paragraph 37 of the above-mentioned Guidelines lists the most common criteria, including, inter alia:

(a) The presence of threatened or endangered species;

(b) The contribution of the area to the maintenance of ecological and environmental functions or processes, including the life cycles of biological species and communities of particular interest; special sites for migratory species, especially those associated with wetland areas;

(c) Areas where great concentrations of spawning and/or breeding of marine organisms and birds occur; areas which are downstream sources of larvae; and

(d) Existence of endemic species, particularly local species with limited distribution and populations.

42. In addition, Appendix III of the Guidelines provides some guidance on how to select for each of the categories of protected areas, based on the IUCN system categories.

7. The Baltic Convention

43. Under the Baltic Convention, a coastal or marine area of the Baltic Sea Region can be designated as Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA) if it meets the criteria set out in the Guidelines for designated BSPA under HELCOM (Helsinki Commission) Recommendation 15/5, also taking into consideration the interests of fisheries and aquaculture. The following are criteria for the areas selected for protection:

- (a) Areas with high biodiversity;
- (b) Habitats of endemic, rare or threatened species and communities of fauna and flora;
- (c) Habitats of migratory species;
- (d) Nursery and spawning areas; and
- (e) Rare or unique or representative geological or geomorphological structure process.

V. CONCLUSION

44. To date, a variety of criteria for identifying and selecting MPCA have been developed within different processes and initiatives, all of which provide useful tools to implement provisions related to MPCA under the Convention on Biological Diversity (see the annex below). These criteria are in most cases consistent with the provisions in annex I to the text of the Convention.

45. Decisions II/10 and IV/5 of the Conference of the Parties, which emphasize critical habitats ^{8/} for living marine resources as an important criterion for the purpose of selection of marine and coastal protected areas, have been widely recognized by various processes and initiatives. Unlike on land where the concept of habitat critical to survival of rare or endangered species often plays a decisive role in identifying the areas worthy of protected status on land (Kelleher and Kenchington, 1993) ^{9/}. In the sea, the concept of critical habitats of endangered species is usually restricted in application to areas critical to certain marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds and to the habitats of the occasional endemic species.

^{8/} Critical habitats is defined as part or all of an ecosystem occupied by wildlife species or population of such species, that is recognized as essential for maintenance and long-term survival of the population (Dunster, J and Dunster, K. 1996. Dictionary of natural resource management)

^{9/} This may include terrestrial part of MPCA.

46. Further development of selection criteria into more comprehensive decision-making tools can be useful for the effective and successful implementation of provisions related to marine and coastal protected areas, not only in the specific context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, but for all the processes and instruments described in this note.

47. To achieve this goal, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider establishing a group of experts from the roster 10/ or request the Executive secretary to conduct further work to contribute to the development of criteria for the establishment of and for management aspects of, marine and coastal protected areas, as called for in the Jakarta Mandate programme of work, programme element 3, operational objective 3.2. The work could be submitted for consideration at the eight meeting of SBSTTA and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which "protected areas" will be an item for in-depth consideration.

10/ Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas has been proposed to carry out on specific element of programme element 3, operational objective 3.1, of the Jakarta Mandate programme of work.

Annex

SUMMARY OF CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY FOR
CONSERVATION IN PROTECTED AREAS

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Elements of criteria*</u>	<u>Sources</u>
<u>Ecological criteria</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be essential part of ecological processes or life support systems, including migration pathway 	CBD/COP, IUCN, SPAW Protocol, IMO, Ramsar Convention, WHC, SPABD Protocol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contain habitat for threatened/ endangered, or rare or endemic species 	CBD/COP, IUCN, Ramsar Convention, Baltic Convention, SPAW Protocol, WHC, IMO, SPABD Protocol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contain areas for breeding/spawning, nursery and juvenile, as well as areas for feeding, rest, or refuge 	CBD/COP, IUCN, Ramsar Convention, Baltic Convention, IMO, SPABD Protocol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contain rare or unique habitats for any species 	CBD/COP IUCN, Baltic Convention, WHC, IMO, SPABD Protocol, SPAW protocol, Ramsar Convention
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contain (high) biological diversity 	CBD/COP, IUCN, Baltic Convention, Ramsar Convention, WHC, IMO, SPABD Protocol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological integrity (the degree to which the area either by itself or in association with other protected areas, encompasses a complete ecosystem) 	IUCN, IMO, SPAW protocol
<u>Biogeographic importance</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contain rare biogeographic quality or be representative of a biogeographic 'type' or types. 	CBD/COP, IUCN, Ramsar Convention, SPAW protocol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contain unique or unusual geological features. 	IUCN, WHC, SPAW protocol
<u>Naturalness</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be undisturbed area or area not subject to human activities 	IUCN, IMO, SPABD Protocol, SPAW protocol
<u>Economic importance</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to economic value by virtue of its protection 	CBD/COP, IUCN, IMO, SPAW, SPABD Protocol
<u>Social importance</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be of existing or potential value to the local, national or international communities (including <u>inter alia</u> being heritage or of historical, cultural, traditional aesthetic 	CBD/COP, IUCN, WHC, SPAW, SPABD Protocol, IMO

* Based on Kelleher & Kenchington, 1992.

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Elements of criteria*</u>	<u>Sources</u>
<u>Scientific importance</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contain high value for research, education, and monitoring 	CBD/COP, IUCN, Ramsar Convention, WHC, SPAW, SPABD Protocol, IMO
<u>International or national significance</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be of international, regional or national importance 	Baltic Convention, SPAW, IUCN, Ramsar Convention, WHC, SPABD Protocol
<u>Practicality/or feasibility</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The degree of insulation from external destructive influence 	IUCN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and political acceptability, degree of community support 	IUCN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility for education, tourism, recreation 	IUCN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility with existing uses, particularly by locals 	IUCN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of management, compatibility with existing management regimes. 	IUCN

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