



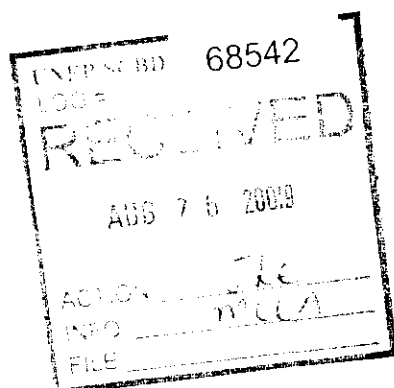
PERMANENT DELEGATION OF BRAZIL TO ICAO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN MONTREAL

N. 17

The Permanent Delegation of Brazil to ICAO and other International Organizations in Montreal presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and wishes to refer to Notification 2009-021, on progress made with regard to the 2012 target for marine protected areas. Please find attached hereto the comments provided by the Brazilian government about this subject.

The Permanent Delegation of Brazil avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity the assurances of its highest consideration.

Montreal, August 26th, 2009.



COASTAL AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN BRAZIL

Progress towards the 2012 target on representative networks of marine protected areas

Introduction

The establishment of a representative and effective system of protected areas is part of a global strategy for biodiversity conservation, taken as a goal to be reached by the States Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD.

The CBD target - to reach at least 10% each of the world's ecological regions of effectively conserved - has also been extended for marine environments by 2012. Out of 5,000 protected areas of the world, only 1,300 include marine and coastal ecosystems, which corresponds to less than 1% of the area occupied by oceans.

With regard to the Brazilian coastal zone, protected areas represent a considerable portion of the national territory. Nonetheless, less than 1.0 % of marine areas under national jurisdiction are under any form of protection. The establishment of new coastal and marine protected areas is, hence, recognized as a national priority, and as a part of the national milestones for biodiversity. Resolution 03/2006 of the National Commission on Biodiversity (CONABIO) highlighted the need to augment these areas in order to reach 10% of protected marine and coastal areas, as well as 10% of full protection areas and/or no-take zones (areas where fishing and other extractive activities are forbidden).

In order to increase the proportion of marine protected areas, the Ministry of the Environment is working to establish public policies and allocate resources to the creation of new marine protected areas.

National Plan for Protected Areas (NPPA)

The establishment of protected areas or conservation units is one of the most fundamental instruments for biological conservation. Brazil presents a relatively extensive system of protected areas: 8% of its territory is registered under a form of protection.

Following the Working Programme of Protected Areas of CBD, Brazil has designed a National Plan for Protected Areas. The main purpose of this Plan is to establish representative and effective terrestrial protected areas by 2010 and marine protected area networks by 2012. This plan takes into consideration the conservation units, indigenous areas and quilombola lands.

As part of the National Plan for Protected Areas (NPPA), an expert group was created to work on specific actions to coastal and marine areas, including the use of protected areas as a tool for fisheries management and for the restoration of depleted stocks of overfished species. The design of this plan has taken into

account the contributions of stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutes from different regions of the country.

The principles and guidelines of the Brazilian National Plan for Protected Areas recognized in the Decree nº 5758, of 04/13/2006, reconcile biodiversity conservation and socio-economic demands. Besides including these principles, the Plan contained strategies to reach an effective system of protected areas.

The following premises have been agreed upon:

- The marine and coastal protected areas shall be designed for biodiversity conservation and as fisheries management tools;
- The system shall be representative;
- The final percentage of each coastal and marine ecosystem to be protected will be defined after the realization of representativeness assessments;
- The network design shall include the pressures, threats and conflicts associated with the coast regarding the Exclusive Economic Zone, with a priority map to be defined.
- The representative network shall be composed of: highly protected areas, where extractive activities and other significant human pressure are prevented (in the second case, at least minimized) so as to guarantee the integrity, structure, functioning and exchange processes of ecosystems to be maintained or recovered;

As regards the implementation of coastal and marine protected area sites, it is important to mention the establishment of the Network of Coastal and Marine Areas Program (*Programa de Rede de Unidades Costeiras e Marinhas – RUMAR*). This program foresees the use of a large sum of resources resulting from environmental compensation to be specifically used for marine protected areas. The RUMAR was elaborated by the ICMBio, an Institute responsible for directing the use of these resources to strengthen protected area sites and thus foster institutional presence in the seas. In addition, ICMBio promotes an interaction of protected areas with the Institute's specialized centers, other governmental organizations and research institutions.

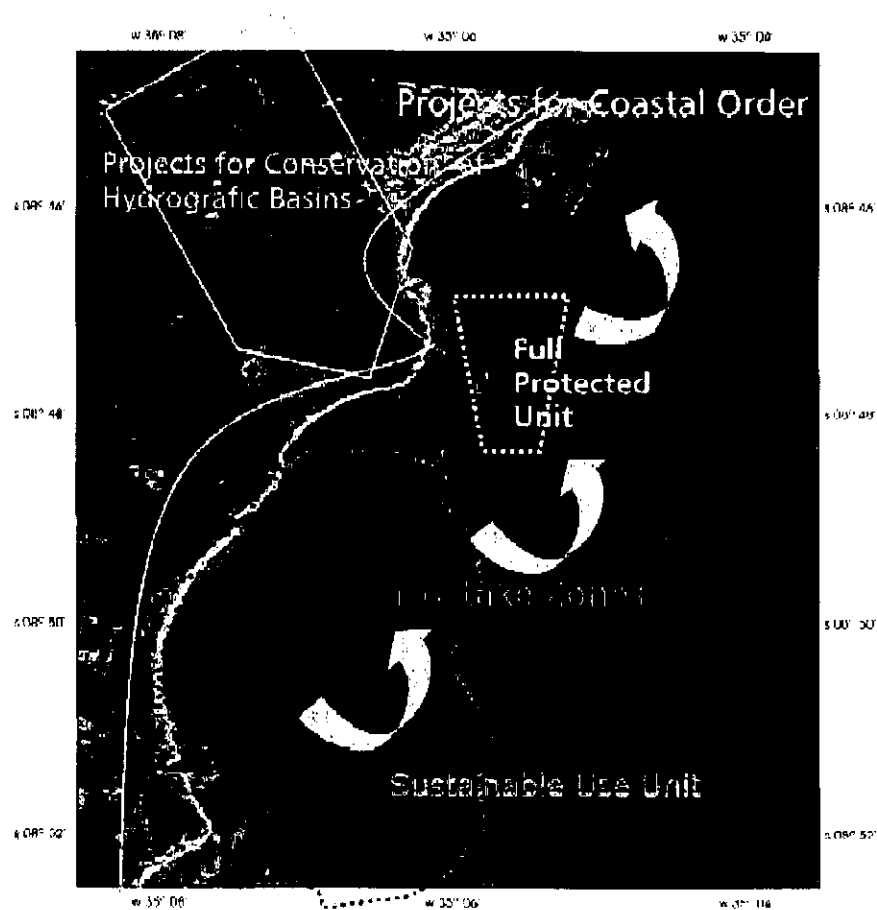


Figure 1: Hypothetical Representation of a network of marine and coastal protected areas.

Priorities for Coastal and Marine Conservation:

In the scope of the PNAP, Brazil has identified Priority Areas for the conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing of the Brazilian Biological Diversity

506 priority areas were indicated as coastal zones (each one with interfaces with the continental biomass) and 102 in the marine zone. In a large number of these areas, fisheries management was indicated, and also the creation of no-take zones. These areas were recognized by Decree no. 5.092, of 03/21/2004 and MMA Official Document no. 09, of 01/22/2007 from the Ministry of Environment (MMA).

No-take zones:

Marine protected areas are essential to conserve the biodiversity of the oceans and to maintain fisheries productivity. Specialists have pointed out that “no-take zones” are an adequate instrument for the recovery of collapsed stocks. Studies have already incorporated the importance of using marine and coastal conservation units and no-take (areas) zones as instruments for fisheries management, which is also well recognized by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture (MPA).

Coastal and marine ecosystems projects:

Regarding specific conservation programs for coastal and marine ecosystems, one can name the GEF Mangrove, whose main objectives are to strengthen the implementation and management of protected areas in mangroves and to incorporate ecosystem fisheries management in these environments.

Given the enormous environmental and socioeconomic relevance of coral reefs, the Ministry of the Environment has been leading and encouraging initiatives in order to establish a network for the protection of corals. The mapping of the shallow Brazilian reefs, a monitoring program associated with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), was established to insert the Brazilian data in world-wide systems. Furthermore, capacity building has been developed and awareness-building measures were implemented through the Coral Reef Conservation Campaign.

At the 8th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, held in Brazil, in the city of Curitiba (March 2006), the Brazilian Government formally joined the International Coral Reef Initiative, which is composed of governments, international organizations and NGOs. The Initiative aims at promoting the conservation of reef environments and related ecosystems by implementing Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the CBD and other relevant international conventions.

The Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation

In 26th April 2007, the Chico Mendes Instituto for the Conservation of Biodiversity (*Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade* - ICMBio) was created to undertake the management of federal protected areas.

This Institute is responsible for implementing, managing, protecting, inspecting and monitoring the protected areas set up by the State, as well as for the execution of policies associated with the sustainable use of renewable natural resources. ICMBio also encourages and implements programs for biodiversity research, protection, preservation and conservation, in accordance with the guidelines established by the

Ministry of Environment. Nowadays, it is responsible for managing 288 protected areas, which cover about 8% of the national territory,

New Marine Protected Areas and the MMA Plan

Different management categories have arisen in accordance with new studies and alternatives for natural resource conservation. The Brazilian National Protected Areas System (SNUC in Portuguese), instituted by Law nº 9.985/2000, gathers all categories into two major groups: those that come under full protection, aimed at protecting fragments of natural ecosystems from any human interference; and those suitable for sustainable use, where the exploitation resources is possible.

In March 2007, the National Registry of Conservation Units registered 310 full protection units and 286 sustainable use units at both federal and state levels, covering 41.5 million hectares and 58.2 million hectares, respectively.

On the same date, the National Registry listed 505 units that protected about 98 million hectares of terrestrial environments or 11.49% of the country's continental territory, and 91 that protected marine ecosystems, equivalent to 0.59% of Brazil's marine area. If we add the 575,000 hectares of existing private reserves to the public protected areas, the area of the country that is integrated into the protected areas system today exceeds one hundred million hectares.

According to more recent data from the National Registry of Conservation Units, managed by the Ministry of Environment, Brazil has 596 federal and state protected areas that are officially recognized as being part of SNUC. If these areas were added to subtract overlaps, the System nowadays formally protects 997,000 km² of the different Brazilian biomes. The National Confederation of Private Natural Heritage Reserves has 5,750 km² of private natural reserves, recognized as such at both federal and state levels. Hence, Brazil currently has approximately 1.05 million km² of its territory designated as terrestrial and marine protected areas.-

In the coastal and marine zones, the protected areas for sustainable use represent a significant part of the total. In spite of existing only a few of them numerically, the states have a bigger area under their protection (see Table 1).

In June/2009 the government created two new conservation units: Cassuruba Extractive Reserve in the state of Bahia, in a mangrove area near the Abrolhos National Marine Park and Prainha do Canto Verde Extractive Reserve in the state of Ceará. The Cassuruba Reserve has an area of 100.687 ha located between Caravelas and Nova Viçosa city (Bahia) and will benefit 1000 families that depend on fisheries. Prainha do Canto Verde reserve has 29.000 ha. That means approximately only 0,03% of Brazilian ZEEs.

For the biennium 2009-2010, the Ministry of the Environment is developing a plan for the establishment of marine protected areas that intends to meet the goals of the CBD and CONABIO. Several projects to create marine and coastal

protected areas are currently in different stages of creation and it is expected that by the end of the government in 2010, new areas will be created. The intention is to achieve the desired 10% in 8 years.

Tabel 1: Total Area - Marine Zone - 3.500.000 sqkm

Protected Areas/Categories	Federal MPAs			States MPAs			Total MPAs	
	No.	Area (km ²)	%	No.	Area (km ²)	%	No.	Area (km ²)
Full Protection (FP)	7	218	0,01%	1	6	0,00%	8	224
Ecological Station								
National Park	11	3.315	0,09%	17	513	0,01%	28	3.829
Wild Life Refuge	1	1	0,00%	0	0	0,00%	1	1
Biological Reserve	5	556	0,02%	1	0	0,00%	6	556

Total (FP)	24	4.091	0,12%	19	519	0,01%	43	4.610
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Protected Area/Categories	Federal MPAs			States MPAs			Total MPAs	
	No.	Area (km ²)	%	No.	Area (km ²)	%	No.	Area (km ²)
Sustainable Use (SU)								
Extractive Reserve	16	4.313	0,12%	0	0	0,00%	16	4.313

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Environmental Protection Area	10	6.267	0.18%	40	35.446	1.01%	50	41.713
Ecologically Relevant Area	3	2	0.00%	4	98	0.00%	7	100

Total (\$U)	29	10.582	0.30%	44	35.544	1.02%	73	46.127
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Total	53	14.673	0.42%	63	36.063	1.03%	116	50.737
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