



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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JAKARTA MANDATE ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

First Meeting of Experts

Jakarta, Indonesia

7 to 10 March 1997

Introduction to the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, including the terms of reference of the Meeting of Experts on marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 4)

Note by the Secretariat

This background document has been prepared by the Secretariat for the purpose of facilitating the first Meeting of Experts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (7-10 March 1997, Jakarta). It recalls the recommendations and decisions which constitute the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (Part II). To further assist the Meeting of Experts, this document restates the terms of reference of the Meeting, as formulated by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Part III). Please, note that this aide-memoire only highlights certain elements of the recommendations and decisions. For the comprehensive text of the Jakarta Mandate, please refer to the official documents.

I. Introduction

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD or Convention) is a legally binding instrument committing governments to protecting the earth's biological resources. It was opened for signature in June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. As of November 1996, 164 States and one regional

economic integration organization have ratified the Convention.

2. The Convention defines biological diversity as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems."

3. The three objectives of the CBD are (a) the conservation of biological diversity; (b) the sustainable use of its components and (c) the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

4. The CBD is unique in the sense that it is the only multilateral, legally binding instrument that covers all the world's ecosystems, thereby taking a comprehensive rather than a sectoral approach. The Convention describes an ecosystem as "the dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit."

II. The Jakarta Mandate

5. In view of common concern regarding marine and coastal biodiversity, and recognising the significant differences between marine and terrestrial biodiversity, at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (November 1995, Jakarta, Indonesia) the Parties to the CBD agreed on a programme of action for implementing the Convention with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity. The programme demonstrates that the CBD is an important tool for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems and their natural resources.

6. This programme is referred to in the Ministerial Statement, adopted at the same meeting, as the "Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity". The Ministerial Statement reaffirms that there is a critical need for the Conference of the Parties to address the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, and urges Parties to initiate immediate action to implement the decisions adopted on this issue.

7. Furthermore, the Ministerial Statement welcomes the commitment of the Government of Indonesia to play a major role in facilitating the implementation at the global and regional level.

8. The Jakarta Mandate consists of:

(a) Recommendation I/8 (UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5 and UNEP/CBD/JM/Expert/I/Inf.2) as formulated by the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). In paragraphs 10-19, this Recommendation focuses on the following five thematic issue areas:

(i) integrated marine and coastal area management;

- (ii) marine and coastal protected areas;
- (iii) sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources;
- (iv) mariculture; and
- (v) alien species.

(b) Decision II/10 of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (UNEP/CBD/COP/2/19 and UNEP/CBD/JM/Expert/I/Inf.3). In this Decision the Conference of the Parties:

- (i) takes note of Recommendation I/8 of the SBSTTA, affirming that it represents a solid basis for future elaboration of the issues presented; and (ii) supports paragraphs 10-19 of Recommendation I/8.

9. Furthermore, Decision II/10 contains two Annexes, which form an integral part of the decision. Annex I contains additional conclusions on the SBSTTA Recommendation I/8. Annex II formulates a draft programme for further work on marine and coastal biodiversity.

10. The second meeting of SBSTTA (September 1995, Montreal, Canada) provided additional guidance for the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate, particularly relevant to the Meeting of Experts (UNEP/CBD/COP/3/3 and UNEP/CBD/JM/Expert/I/Inf.4); The contents of this additional guidance are summarized in paragraphs 15-17 of the present document.

III. Terms of Reference for the Roster and Meeting of Experts

11. The Jakarta Mandate (Decision II/10, paragraph 7) instructs the Executive Secretary to provide the SBSTTA with scientific, technical and technological advice and options for recommendations to the Conference of the Parties in further elaborating SBSTTA Recommendation I/8, with the exception of paragraphs 3 and 4.

12. Decision II/10, paragraph 8 offers the Executive Secretary guidance for conducting this work. This includes, inter alia, the establishment of a roster of experts on the basis of country input. The Executive Secretary may convene meetings of experts, drawn from the roster.

13. Paragraph 2 of Annex II to Decision II/10, provides that the Executive Secretary should use the roster of experts to address the following topics:

- (a) Identify options for a pragmatic but comprehensive approach in addressing marine and coastal biological diversity on the basis of an ecosystem approach, including its components at the levels

of species and genetic resources, distinguishing regions at the relevant scales. Use the results from this activity in identifying the gaps in knowledge of the distribution and abundance of marine and coastal biodiversity;

(b) Identify the particular needs for conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity in the context of activities which will impact on marine resources; and

(c) Review the mandates and activities under international agreements that affect marine and coastal biological diversity, and develop analyses that can be offered by the Conference of the Parties to the relevant institutions as to the implications of the CBD for these activities

14. Furthermore, paragraph 3 of Annex II to Decision II/10, outlines general approaches which should be applied in addressing these issues, covering: (i) the precautionary approach; (ii) interaction with relevant organizations and agencies; (iii) capacity building and technology transfer; (iv) knowledge of local and indigenous communities; (v) community and user-based approaches; and (vi) use of the Convention clearing-house mechanism and national reports of Parties.

15. As mentioned above, additional guidance for implementing the Jakarta Mandate was provided by the second meeting of SBSTTA. This states that at the third meeting of the SBSTTA (September 1997), the Secretariat, on the basis of the outcome from the first meeting of experts, should provide an interim report on recommendations for proceeding with positive action on the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity.

These recommendations should be made on the basis of priorities that consider

(i) what resources are or will be available;

(ii) which of the five thematic issues (integrated marine and coastal area management, marine and coastal protected areas, sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, mariculture and alien species) the Convention can have the greatest effect;

(iii) which of the five thematic issues other non-CBD entities are adequately addressing the topic or will be; and

(iv) where other planned or ongoing activities outside the CBD process can contribute to Convention proposed actions.

16. Furthermore, SBSTTA-2 requests that the meeting of experts assist the Executive Secretary in identifying (i) priorities for implementing the Jakarta Mandate; (ii) options for a pragmatic but comprehensive approach in addressing marine and coastal biodiversity; and (iii) products, timetables, and ways and means in line with paragraphs 1(b), 1(c) and 7 of Decision II/10. In addition, SBSTTA-2 states that the meeting of experts, in formulating its recommendations, shall have regard to the views of the

roster of experts more widely.

17. Finally, SBSTTA-2 urges the Secretariat to strengthen and develop special partnership arrangements with international organizations and institutions including regional bodies with particular competence in specific areas of marine and coastal biodiversity.

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