

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

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**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON MARINE
AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY****I. BACKGROUND**

1. The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity identified marine and coastal biological diversity as one of the early priority areas for the work of the Convention. This was reflected in the adoption of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity in Jakarta in 1995, in conjunction with the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Jakarta Mandate is a global consensus on the importance of marine and coastal biological diversity, and is a part of the Ministerial Statement on the implementation of the Convention.
2. Following this, the Conference of the Parties adopted at its fourth meeting (Bratislava, May 1998) decision IV/5 on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, including a multi-year programme of work arising from decision II/10. The programme of work was developed to assist the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate at the national, regional and global levels. The programme focuses on five main thematic issues, which reflect global priorities. These thematic issues are: integrated marine and coastal area management, sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, marine and coastal protected areas, mariculture, and alien species and genotypes.
3. The programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity is based on several basic principles. These include the ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach, the importance of science, and the related knowledge of local and indigenous communities. The special circumstances of Small Island developing states are also recognized.
4. The programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity is implemented at the local, national, regional and global levels. Implementation at the regional level is undertaken by various regional organizations, arrangements and bodies, such as the UNEP Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. At the global level, such international organizations as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and its Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Maritime Organization, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) and other relevant bodies contribute to the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity. Collaborative arrangements exist with other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

5. The primary implementation of the programme of work is at the national and local levels, and takes place through national strategies, plans and programmes that promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. Such plans and programmes are included in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), drafted by Parties in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention.

II. ELEMENTS OF THE WORK PROGRAMME ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

6. Five key thematic issues were identified in the Jakarta Mandate. These issues are reflected in the programme elements of the work programme adopted in decision IV/5. The operational objectives set out in the work programme are highlighted here, but not the activities. However, for the information of the ad hoc technical expert group on mariculture, the activities under this programme element are presented, in addition to the operational objectives. The full text of the work programme is available in the annex to decision IV/5. Operational objective 2.3 concerning coral reefs was later added through decision VI/3. The full text of the decisions can be accessed at the Secretariat's Web site at <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/>

Programme element 1. Implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)

Operational objectives:

1.1 To review the existing instruments relevant to IMCAM and their implication for the implementation of the Convention.

1.2 To promote the development and implementation of IMCAM at the local, national and regional level.

1.3 To develop guidelines for ecosystem evaluation and assessment, paying attention to the need to identify and select indicators, including social and abiotic indicators, that distinguish between natural and human-induced effects.

Programme element 2. Marine and coastal living resources

Operational objectives:

2.1 To promote ecosystem approaches to the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, including the identification of key variables or interactions, for the purpose of assessing and monitoring,

first, components of biological diversity; second, the sustainable use of such components; and, third, ecosystem effects.

2.2 To make available to the Parties information on marine and coastal genetic resources, including bioprospecting.

2.3 To gather and assimilate information on, build capacity to mitigate the effects of, and to promote policy development and implementation strategies to address: (i) the biological and socio-economic consequences of physical degradation and destruction of tropical and cold-water coral-reef ecosystems, including identification and promotion of management practices, methodologies and policies to reduce and mitigate impacts upon marine and coastal biological diversity and to restore and rehabilitate damaged coral reef; and in particular (ii) the impacts of coral bleaching and related mortality on coral-reef ecosystems and the human communities which depend upon coral-reef services, including through financial and technical assistance. *(This operational objective was added by decision VI/3)*

Programme element 3. Marine and coastal protected areas

Operational objectives:

3.1 To facilitate research and monitoring activities related to the value and the effects of marine and coastal protected areas or similarly restricted management areas on sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources.

3.2 To develop criteria for the establishment of, and for management aspects of, marine and coastal protected areas.

Programme element 4. Mariculture

Operational objective:

To assess the consequences of mariculture for marine and coastal biological diversity and promote techniques which minimize adverse impact.

Activities:

(a) To provide guidance on criteria, methods and techniques which avoid the adverse effects of mariculture and also subsequent stock enhancement on marine and coastal biological diversity and enhance the positive effects of mariculture on marine and coastal productivity;

(b) To collect and disseminate information, data, literature and bibliography relevant to the operational objective and best practice of successful sustainable mariculture, including the use of local species where appropriate;

(c) To evaluate the current state of scientific and technological knowledge on the effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity.

Programme element 5. Alien species and genotypes*Operational objectives:*

5.1 To achieve better understanding of the causes of the introduction of alien species and genotypes and the impact of such introductions on biological diversity.

5.2 To identify gaps in existing or proposed legal instruments, guidelines and procedures to counteract the introduction of and the adverse effects exerted by alien species and genotypes which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, paying particular attention to transboundary effects; and to collect information on national and international actions to address these problems, with a view to prepare for the development of a scientifically-based global strategy for dealing with the prevention, control and eradication of those alien species which threaten marine and coastal ecosystems, habitats and species.

5.3: To establish an "incident list" on introductions of alien species and genotypes through the national reporting process or any other appropriate means.

Programme element 6. General*Operational objectives:*

6.1 To assemble a database of initiatives on programme elements through a cooperative approach with relevant organizations and bodies, with special emphasis on integrated marine and coastal areas management.

6.2 To develop a database of experts from the roster and other sources, to be available for the development and implementation of specific elements of national policies on marine and coastal biological diversity, giving full recognition to the importance of taxonomy and following closely the development of the Global Taxonomy Initiative and in accordance with decision IV/1 D. Special consideration should be given to regional perspectives and the setting up of regional centres of taxonomic expertise, as well as to the taxonomy efforts of other intergovernmental programmes, agencies and relevant institution