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Twentieth meeting
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda**

REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020: ANTARCTICA AND THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, upon request by the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research for the information of participants in the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, a summary note on a meeting of biodiversity, legal and policy experts to assess Antarctic and Southern Ocean biodiversity and its conservation status in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Monaco, Principality of Monaco, 8-10 June 2015).

2. By assessing the level of progress made towards the achievement of each Aichi Biodiversity Target in the Antarctic region, the Monaco Assessment complements other regional assessments undertaken in follow-up to the fourth edition of *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

3. The note, prepared for the thirty-ninth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and the nineteenth Committee on Environmental Protection Meeting, is being made available upon request by the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research and the Government of the Principality of Monaco. It is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received.

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XXXIX ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING
SANTIAGO - CHILE 2016
25 YEARS PROTOCOL ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in the context of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020

Attachments:
Atcm39_att045_e.doc: Attachment A - Aichi Targets

Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in the context of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011 to 2020

Summary

In June 2015, SCAR, in partnership with the government of the Principality of Monaco, and several other supporters, held a meeting of biodiversity, legal and policy experts to assess Antarctic and Southern Ocean biodiversity and its conservation status in the context of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011 to 2020. To date, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean have not been adequately represented in associated global biodiversity assessments. The meeting considered the current status of biodiversity conservation in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, available evidence for this status, and both their trajectory and evidence for this trajectory, in the context of each of the 20 Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011 to 2020. The meeting recognized that for some areas of conservation, in the context of these Aichi Targets, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are in a leading position globally. The meeting also recognized that some of the Aichi Targets provide no applicable context for conservation in the Antarctic region. The meeting concluded that it is essential to ensure that Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are fully represented when a report on the state of global biodiversity is presented at the end of the decade.

Background

The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty commits the Parties to the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment. This commitment includes the conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora, as Annexes II and V to the Protocol, and several subsequent ATCM Measures and Resolutions [e.g. 1, 2] make clear.

The field of Conservation Biology recognizes the conservation of fauna and flora under the broader rubric of *the conservation of biological diversity*, or, in its abbreviated form – biodiversity. Biodiversity is typically defined as: 'the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part' [3].

Many scientific reviews have concluded that global biodiversity is in decline. One of these, which appeared in 2010, recognized that despite numerous endeavours to reverse this trend, most indicators revealed a continuing decline in the state of biodiversity, with pressures on biodiversity, such as biological invasions, climate change, and overexploitation, showing increases [4].

Subsequently, renewed global commitments were made to reverse these trends, formulated formally in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which calls for urgent action this decade, supported by a suite of 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets [5]. A recent mid-term review of progress against these targets concluded that despite much endeavour in policy and management responses, the state of biodiversity is unlikely to have improved by 2020, and additional societal effort is required to achieve the Aichi Targets [6].

Despite the considerable richness of Antarctic and Southern Ocean biodiversity [7], the 2014 review of the state of global biodiversity [6] incorporated only minimal information from the region. Similarly, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are inadequately represented in the Global Biodiversity Outlook [8]. In consequence, despite the significance of the region's biodiversity, and broad recognition of the general efficacy of the Protocol on Environmental Protection for the conservation of biodiversity (formally as Fauna and Flora) [9, 10], it seems likely that a report on the state of global biodiversity at the end of the decade will not adequately represent understanding of both Antarctic biodiversity and the efforts being made to conserve it through the Antarctic Treaty System.

The Monaco Assessment of Antarctic and Southern Ocean biodiversity

To address this potential underrepresentation, SCAR, in partnership with the government of the Principality of Monaco, and several other supporters, held a meeting of biodiversity, legal and policy

experts, in June 2015, to assess Antarctic and Southern Ocean biodiversity and its conservation status in the context of the Aichi Targets (www.scar.org/monaco-assessment).

These 20 Targets (see attachment A) are divided among five strategic goals:

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society,
- Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use,
- Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity,
- Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services,
- Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

The meeting considered the current status of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean biodiversity conservation, available evidence for this status, and both the trajectory and evidence for this trajectory, in the context of each of the 20 targets. The meeting recognized that for some areas of conservation, in the context of these Aichi Targets, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are in a leading position globally. For example, invasive alien species and pathways have already been identified and prioritized, priority species have been identified and have been eradicated in several cases, and measures are in place to prevent their introduction and establishment (Target 9). The meeting also recognized that for other areas of conservation, much effort is being directed to them. For example, safeguarding biodiversity through ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (Target 11).

The meeting also recognized that some of the Aichi Targets provide no applicable context for conservation in the Antarctic region.

Following the meeting, much effort has been undertaken to draw together the full evidence base for each of the areas of conservation considered during it. This work is nearing completion and will be made available through two major routes: First, by means of a formal scientific publication in the peer-reviewed literature. Second, a comprehensive report will be provided to the Antarctic Treaty Parties, which will subsequently also be made public. Moreover, the outcomes will form a foundational introductory basis for SCAR's Antarctic Conservation for the 21st Century Report, which is nearing completion.

Conclusions

A key conclusion of the Monaco Assessment meeting was that the five strategic goals under which the Aichi Targets fall, resonate well with the extensive and comprehensive work being undertaken by Parties, and by all those active in the Antarctic region, including organizations such as SCAR, COMNAP, IAATO and ASOC, to ensure comprehensive protection of its environment. In consequence, it is essential to ensure that Antarctic and Southern Ocean biodiversity and the efforts being made to conserve it through the Antarctic Treaty System, are fully represented when a report on the state of global biodiversity is presented at the end of the decade.

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Attachment A

Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in the context of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011 to 2020

Aichi Biodiversity Targets (www.cbd.int/sp/targets/)

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Target 1
By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

Target 2
By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

Target 3
By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

Target 4
By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Target 5
By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 6
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.

Target 7
By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Target 8
By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
Target 9
By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Target 10
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.

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Target 11
By 2020, 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, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 12
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
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.

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Target 14
By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 15
By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

Target 16
By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

Target 17

By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Target 18
By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Target 19
By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

Target 20
By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.