



Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological Diversity



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**BIODIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURE**

STATEMENT

by

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

at the

**Meeting of Steering Committee
Global Form on Oceans, Coasts and Islands**

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ONE NATURE • ONE WORLD • OUR FUTURE
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Distinguished Members of the Steering Committee,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to first extend my sincere appreciation to the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands for continuously providing valuable support to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its works on marine and coastal biodiversity. My special congratulation goes to Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain for her excellent leadership in mobilizing global commitment toward achieving three objectives of the Convention.

With regard to the Working Group on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas of the Global Forum, I would like to highlight that the Secretariat very much appreciated the contribution made by the Working Group, making "Policy Brief on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas" available as information to participants at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP). This contribution has provided the Secretariat with a strong foundation for preparing the in-depth review of implementation of programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity. The in-depth review will be undertaken at the forthcoming 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled for October 2010. The Secretariat would ensure that all the relevant recommendations articulated in the Policy Brief can be considered by the Parties in due course. In relation to in-depth review, Parties, other governments and relevant organizations were invited to submit, on a voluntary basis, information on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, including progress made towards achieving the goals, challenges, as well as obstacles and capacity-building needs. They are also invited to provide information on the status and trends of, and threats to, marine and coastal biological diversity. In this regard, I earnestly request you all to provide the relevant information, so that the Secretariat will prepare a meaningful review for consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

To effectively address the need for marine biodiversity conservation, particularly in areas beyond national jurisdiction, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, in its ninth meeting, took a historic step forward and adopted scientific criteria for identifying biologically and ecologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats as well as scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas (decision IX/20, paragraph 14). The COP also decided to convene an expert workshop in order to provide scientific and technical guidance on the use and further development of biogeographic classification systems, and guidance on the identification of areas beyond the national jurisdiction, which meet the scientific criteria (decision IX/20, paragraph 19). The workshop will be held in Ottawa, Canada, and is tentatively scheduled for September 2009. You are therefore invited to provide scientific and technical inputs to this important CBD process.

The ninth meeting of the COP as well as other relevant UN/international fora, such as the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters (1972) and the 1996 London Protocol, sounded a warning on the potential adverse impacts of direct human-induced ocean fertilization on marine biodiversity. The COP, in its ninth meeting, also raised its concerns on the potential impacts of ocean acidification.

Regarding the issue of ocean fertilization, the COP in its ninth meeting recognized the current absence of reliable data covering all relevant aspects of ocean fertilization, and requested Parties and urged other Governments, in accordance with the precautionary approach, to ensure that ocean fertilization activities do not take place until there is an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities. The COP expanded this guidance on ocean fertilization to call for the assessment of associated risks, and the establishment of a global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism. The COP did, however, make an exception for small scale scientific research studies within coastal waters. The COP also requested the Executive Secretary to seek the views of Parties and other Governments, and,

in consultation with the International Maritime Organization, other relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, to compile and synthesize available scientific information on potential impacts of direct human-induced ocean fertilization on marine biodiversity.

In relation to the COP's concerns on ocean acidification, the Executive Secretary was requested, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations, to compile and synthesize available scientific information on ocean acidification and its impacts on marine biodiversity and habitats, which is identified as a potentially serious threat to cold-water corals and other marine biodiversity. The results of such scientific synthesis will be made available for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD, tentatively scheduled for May 2010.

As outlined above, there are many important tasks on marine and coastal biodiversity being undertaken by the Secretariat, which require continuous support and contributions by the Global Forum. I would like also to remind you of the international celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, which can give us valuable opportunity to coordinate our actions, as we move towards 2010. Therefore, I wish to invite the Global Forum to showcase successful examples of marine biodiversity conservation and highlight your global efforts made so far toward achieving 2010 biodiversity target.

I am very much confident that our partnership with the Global Forum will continue to flourish, and through our close collaboration your voices can be carried forward to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I wish you a successful conclusion of the meeting.

Thank you.