



Press Brief

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Why is this important?

Oceans are essential to sustainable development and the health and well-being of the planet. Oceans include highly diverse habitats — such as coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrass beds, estuaries, open-ocean and deep-sea habitats — critical to ecological health, social well-being and economical development.

Nearly all living things on earth depend on the oceans in one way or another. They are an important source of sustenance, medicine, livelihoods, recreation and cultural value for populations around the world. They provide ecosystem services that are not only critical to the healthy functioning of the planet but also to sustainable economic growth and social welfare. Oceans are critical to many important global processes, such as climate regulation and carbon cycling. Ocean ecosystems provide critical life supporting services to the global population and underpin global productivity and well-being.

Oceans cover 70% of our planet but their tremendous wealth of biodiversity and ecosystem services are not infinite. The oceans are facing growing threats, including from overfishing, climate change, pollution and habitat destruction, which are causing an unprecedented loss of biodiversity in the oceans and negatively impacting efforts to achieve sustainable development.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The CBD's programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity involves a range of different issues, with the CBD Secretariat carrying out significant scientific and technical work to support the efforts of Parties in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In this regard, Parties will discuss a number of topics, including:

- Results of seven regional workshops to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and the development of an EBSA online information-sharing mechanism
- A new set of priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, which provides guidance to Parties in taking actions to minimize pressures on coral reefs and associated vulnerable ecosystems
- Results of an expert workshop on underwater noise, which provides guidance to Parties in implementing measures to minimize the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine biodiversity
- Results of an expert workshop on marine spatial planning, which provides consolidated practical guidance for marine spatial planning in order to complement and further enhance the existing cross-sectoral efforts of Parties and on the application of the ecosystem approach
- A new CBD Technical Series report presenting a major global synthesis of knowledge on the impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity, representing a significant collaborative effort by Parties and experts from around the world in gathering the best available knowledge on this issue
- Capacity building, including activities conducted in the framework of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) which will be further highlighted at a high-level meeting to be held during COP 12.

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