



UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Investing in biodiversity for people and planet



COP 14 - CP/MOP9 - NP/MOP3
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

The ocean makes up over 70% of the Earth's surface and 95% of the biosphere, and contains some 250,000 known species. Marine biodiversity and ecosystems provide an enormous amount of services essential for the healthy functioning of the planet and to the health, well-being and prosperity of humanity.

Yet, the ocean is facing growing pressure from unsustainable human activities; the impacts of which are reaching all parts of the ocean, from nearshore and coastal areas to remote open-ocean and deep-sea areas. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has outlined various means and approaches to address these impacts, but has also highlighted the significant challenges faced in doing so, and the need for capacity building to support implementation.

Work under the Convention has evolved to support Parties in addressing these challenges. This work has recently focused on addressing the impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise, improving research and management in cold-water areas (deep-sea and open ocean) and enhancing the use of marine spatial planning. The CBD Secretariat has also advanced capacity building efforts through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI), a global capacity-building platform coordinated by the Secretariat. Work has also expanded on identifying successful approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity considerations in fisheries management.





Marine and Coastal Biodiversity at the UN Biodiversity Conference¹

Parties will consider progress and experiences on the above-noted areas of work. The COP will consider experiences in addressing anthropogenic underwater noise and implementing marine spatial planning, and how this can inform future work. It will also consider the need for Parties to increase their efforts to minimize and mitigate the impacts of marine debris (in particular plastic pollution) on marine and coastal biodiversity, to address the potential impacts of deep-seabed mining on marine biodiversity, and to protect biodiversity in cold-water areas. It will also consider the progress on capacity building under SOI, and collaboration between the CBD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature on supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity in fisheries.

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Important links

- The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) recommendations: www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-22/sbstta-22-rec-06-en.pdf
- Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas: www.cbd.int/ebsa
- Sustainable Ocean Initiative: www.cbd.int/soi
- Marine debris: understanding, preventing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity: www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-83-en.pdf

¹ Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing; 17-29 November 2018

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