

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Twenty-fourth meeting
Online, 3 May – 9 June 2021
Agenda item 6

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions IX/20, X/29, XI/18, XII/23, XIII/9, XIII/11, XIII/12 and 14/30 with respect to cooperation and collaboration with relevant global and regional organizations and initiatives,

Recognizing the need to strengthen collaboration and cooperation with other competent intergovernmental organizations with a mandate in areas beyond national jurisdiction in support of the application of the ecosystem approach and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity,

Recognizing also the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity as a cross-cutting element of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and critical to achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Thematic Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework,¹ and *requests* the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity in the context of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to prepare a draft update to the programme of work on the basis of this analysis, also considering the outcomes of the above-referenced workshop, as appropriate, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop a strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on island biodiversity in the context of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in collaboration with the Global Islands Partnership and building on other relevant efforts to review progress towards global commitments and goals for island biodiversity, and to prepare a draft update to the programme of work on the basis of this analysis for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments to take into account the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity in efforts to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including through enhancing the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems, addressing threats and pressures, such as marine plastic litter and unsustainable fishing, and conserving and sustainably using marine genetic resources as well as supporting appropriate access to marine genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilization, within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention and its protocols;

4. *Invites* relevant global and regional organizations, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, regional fishery bodies, and regional seas conventions and action plans, to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

¹ CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2.

with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity, and to contribute to monitoring and reporting with respect to the implementation of the framework;

5. *Welcomes* the work of the Executive Secretary on the compilation and synthesis of information on:

(a) Impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and means to minimize and mitigate these impacts;

(b) Impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats and means to minimize and mitigate these impacts;

(c) Experiences with the application of marine spatial planning;

(d) Efforts to implement the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems;

(e) Efforts to implement the Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention;

6. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments and relevant organizations to use the information referred to in paragraph 7 above in their efforts to conserve and sustainably use marine and coastal biodiversity, according to national priorities and circumstances, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the compilation, synthesis and sharing of information on efforts to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with respect to various thematic issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity, in line with decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments to support the development of a global agreement to reduce marine plastic litter under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the implementation of marine spatial planning, including through capacity-building and partnership activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations;

9. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments to minimize and mitigate the impacts of deep-sea mining on marine and coastal biodiversity as well as its impacts on other uses of the marine environment;

10. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Executive Secretary to support efforts to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in fisheries, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue this cooperation in an open and transparent manner and building on the results of the Expert Meeting on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures in the Marine Capture Fishery Sector, including for the development of voluntary guidance on identifying and applying other effective area-based conservation measures in fisheries;

11. *Welcomes* the capacity-building and partnership activities being facilitated by the Executive Secretary, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, at the national, regional and global levels in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, *expresses its gratitude* to donor countries and many other partners for providing financial and technical support for the implementation of activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to facilitate capacity-building activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in order to facilitate implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with respect to marine, coastal and island biodiversity;

12. *Also welcomes* the collaborative efforts among the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, the regional seas conventions and action plans, regional fishery bodies, large marine ecosystem projects/programmes and other relevant regional initiatives to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation at the regional scale in order to accelerate progress to achieve the

Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue this collaboration in the context of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to enhance cooperation and synergies with other global and regional organizations in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to build synergies with other relevant global and regional organizations to support the implementation of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea³ on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, upon its adoption;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to enhance cooperation and synergies with global and regional organizations, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁴ with respect to matters related to marine and coastal biodiversity and climate change.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1771, No. I-30822.