

# CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,  
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE  
Sixteenth meeting  
Montreal, 30 April – 5 May 2012  
**WORKING GROUP II**  
Agenda item 6.3

## **MARINE BIODIVERSITY: MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AND VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS IN MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS**

### *Draft recommendation submitted by the Co-Chairs*

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

### ***Voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas***

*Recalling* decision VIII/28, by which it endorsed voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment,

*Noting* that marine areas, in particular open-ocean and deep-sea areas, have important ecological differences from terrestrial and coastal areas,

1. *Takes note* of the voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7/Add.1), including in areas beyond national jurisdiction in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention, and *encourages* Parties, other Governments as well as relevant organizations to make use of them;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make these guidelines available to Parties, other Governments and United Nations specialized agencies, as well as relevant United Nations General Assembly processes, in particular the United Nations Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to use the voluntary guidelines, as appropriate and in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and to adapt and apply the voluntary guidelines as considered necessary in accordance with their national priorities; and

4. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to share, as appropriate, information on their progress in the application of these guidelines, including through the fifth and subsequent national reports, and to provide suggestions for their further refinement;

4 *bis*. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to facilitate further research to fill gaps in knowledge, as highlighted in the voluntary guidelines with regards to marine and coastal areas, in particular in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

4 *ter*. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide further assistance to promote capacity-building on the application of the voluntary guidelines, and to compile information on experience in the application of the voluntary guidelines;

### ***Marine spatial planning***

5. *Acknowledges* the synthesis document on the experience and use of marine spatial planning (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18), and *takes note* of the key messages as set out in section III of the note by the Executive Secretary on marine spatial planning and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7) prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to collaborate with Parties, other Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, regional organizations, and other relevant organizations, including indigenous and local communities to:

(a) Develop a web-based information-sharing system linking existing information sources<sup>1</sup> on marine spatial planning on the web;

(b) Continue to compile information on experience and use of marine spatial planning practices and make the compiled information available to Parties, other Governments and competent international organizations to evaluate its usefulness and implications;

(c) Convene an expert workshop to provide consolidated practical guidance and a toolkit for applying marine spatial planning, building upon existing guidelines,<sup>2</sup> subject to availability of financial resources, in order to complement and further enhance the existing cross-sectoral efforts of Parties and other Governments on the application of the ecosystem approach to the implementation of integrated marine and coastal management; the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs); the design, establishment and management of marine protected areas, and other area-based management efforts. The expert workshop should:

(i) Review existing guidelines and toolkits on marine spatial planning;

(ii) Identify gaps;

(iii) Develop proposals to fill these gaps; and

(iv) If considered necessary, draft a consolidated practical guidance and toolkit on marine spatial planning;

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the IOC/UNESCO webpage on marine spatial planning, ([http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/marine\\_spatial\\_planning\\_msp](http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/marine_spatial_planning_msp))

<sup>2</sup> For example, the IOC/UNESCO guidelines on marine spatial planning.

(c) *bis* Make the guidance and toolkits, as referred to above, available to Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations;

(c) *ter*. Disseminate awareness-raising materials on marine spatial planning to decision makers based on the synthesis document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18) and its key messages as contained in the note by Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7) with a view to facilitating the application of practical guidance and toolkits as referred to above;

(d) Organize training workshops, subject to availability of financial resources, in close linkage to existing capacity-building efforts on marine protected areas<sup>3</sup> and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs),<sup>4</sup> in order to increase the capacity of Parties, especially developing country Parties, in their application of marine spatial planning as a tool to enhance existing efforts on integrated marine and coastal area management, establishment of marine protected areas, identification of EBSAs, and other marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable-use practices.

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<sup>3</sup> For example, the UNDOALOS training manual on marine protected areas.

<sup>4</sup> For example, EBSA training manuals and modules prepared by Executive Secretary.