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Sixteenth meeting

Montreal, 30 April - 5 May 2012

Items 6.1, 6.2 & 6.3 of the provisional agenda *

PROPOSALS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE

Note by the Executive Secretary

BACKGROUND

1. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 10), at its tenth meeting, undertook its in-depth review of the progress made in the implementation of the CBD programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, and provided further guidance for enhanced implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity.
2. As such, The Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments to achieve long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of marine resources and coastal habitats, and to effectively manage marine protected areas, in order to safeguard marine and coastal biodiversity and marine ecosystem services, and sustainable livelihoods, and to adapt to climate change, through appropriate application of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, including the use of available tools such as integrated river basin and integrated coastal zone management, marine spatial planning, and impact assessments.
3. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties then emphasized the need for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, as well as through relevant regional initiatives, and that these training workshops should contribute to sharing experiences related to integrated management of marine resources and the implementation of marine and coastal spatial planning instruments, facilitate the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, and may address other regional priorities that are brought forward as these workshops are planned.

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4. Pursuant to the requests mentioned above, and building upon the initial consultation meeting convened during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 24 October 2010, the Executive Secretary organized, jointly with UNU-IAS-Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa, with financial support from the Government of Japan including the Ministry of the Environment (through Japan Biodiversity Fund), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ishikawa Prefecture and Kanazawa City, a Meeting on Sustainable Ocean Initiative Programme Development. The meeting was held at the Kanazawa City Conference Center in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan from 2 to 4 August 2011.

7. The meeting aimed at building a long-term programme of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative with identification of short-term priority actions, including implementation measures, in consultation with various partners, toward the goal of setting in place the Sustainable Ocean Initiative as a long-term capacity-building partnership to facilitate the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular Target 6, 10 and Target 11, and effective implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity under the Convention, including the guidance by the Conference of the Parties in decision X/29.

8. Further details can be found in the meeting report available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBSTTA-16> (under other document).

9. This note on the proposals for implementing Sustainable Ocean Initiative was thus prepared, drawing on the results of the above meeting, as information to participants at 16th meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

PROPOSALS FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE (SOI)

Developing a common vision for SOI as a global platform for capacity-building

10. While the overall vision and goal for SOI is still being developed, there has emerged a common understanding of elements that could form a part of this vision. These elements include:

- A focus on facilitating achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity, particularly targets 6, 10 and 11, in a holistic manner
- A strategic, action-oriented approach that will support on-the-ground implementation priorities
- Reliance on partnerships and sharing at various scales (local, regional and global) and between different sectors, groups and stakeholders including between biodiversity and fisheries sectors
- A focus on providing targeted capacity development at all levels throughout its activities
- Achieving a balance between sustainable use and conservation and the promotion of flexible and diverse approaches towards this end.

Time Frame

11. SOI activities will be undertaken within a ten year time period, which is consistent with the time frame for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity targets (2011-2020). While this time frame is relatively long, it is also important to undertake selected activities that can get underway quickly, that are achievable, and that can provide results in time for COP-11 in 2012. Both short and long-term activities will thus be considered within the scope of SOI.

Developing activities for SOI

12. There is a long list of specific activities that could be undertaken within the scope of SOI, depending on priorities, available resources and capacity. Subsequent section (paragraph 13) provides such lists for targets 6 and 11, which are closely linked. While it is expected that these activities will be further refined in the future, they fall in the following general categories that are considered central for the work of SOI:

- Facilitating information sharing and exchange, as well as learning from both successful and unsuccessful experiences;
- Creating partnerships that can provide for targeted capacity-building and technical assistance
- Providing for a two-way communication between global policy and scientific communities and local stakeholders;
- Improving the scientific basis for implementation, including through improved technologies, cooperative research efforts, objective monitoring, results-based initiatives, open access data and analysis, and integration of local knowledge and science; and
- Monitoring progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity (particularly targets 6, 10 and 11) and facilitating the provision of guidance and capacity that will help their achievement.

Towards developing a work programme for SOI

13. The following provides ideas and directions that can be used to further develop the work of SOI for targets 6 and 11. The text was developed as a result of group discussions at SOI programme development meeting (mentioned above, 2-4 August 2011, Kanazawa, Japan), and will be refined and prioritized in the future. The long term goal, scope and approaches, short term priorities as well as partners and resources for implementation are addressed. Targets 6 and 11 were discussed separately, with the understanding that many issues and activities related to these targets are interlinked and should also be considered holistically. Further discussion will be organized on Target 10 in the future meetings.

TARGET 6: “By 2020, all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably and legally, and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits”

- **Long-term goal of SOI programme (2011 to 2020):**

Facilitate achievement of target 6.

- **Scope and approaches**

Share and disseminate:

- information and experiences (good and bad), case studies and lessons learned relating to biodiversity concerns in sustainable fisheries
- documentation of ecosystem-based fisheries, integration of biodiversity concerns into fisheries
- Scientific knowledge and data
- Information about standards and protocols, comparable studies, and new technologies that can facilitate capacity-building
- Methods for creating linkages between TEK and science

Facilitate communication and partnerships between:

- Biodiversity and fisheries communities and institutions
- Existing programs and partnerships of relevance to biodiversity and sustainable fisheries
- Regions, stakeholders, communities
- global, national and local levels

- CBD and private sector (including carbon market, e.g. Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership and blue carbon – keeping in mind equity and benefit sharing with communities)

Provide for capacity-building through:

- Partnerships
- Training programmes
- Facilitating continuation of efforts from Bergen meeting
- Developing a menu of tools and approaches for biodiversity and sustainable fisheries for local stakeholders
- Awareness building
- Developing e-learning tools

Develop an evaluation process to measure success of SOI in regards to target 6

• **Short-term priority areas (by COP 11)**

- Case studies – community initiatives on sustainable fisheries and biodiversity (published and web-based case studies, side event)
- Examples of collapsed fisheries and lessons learned
- Review of existing literature on biodiversity concerns in fisheries (possibly in partnership between fisheries and biodiversity organizations)
- Training workshop on sustainable fisheries
- Create network/partnership between local community initiatives

• **Partners and resources for implementation**

- Small scale fishers' associations
- Networks and groups trying to manage resources
- International development agencies (e.g., JICA)
- NGOs and IGOs (e.g. IUCN-FEG-CEM and others)
- Educational institutions
- Local governments
- Park rangers

TARGET 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.

• **Long term goal of SOI programme (2011 to 2020)**

Facilitate achievement of target 11 through addressing issues of network representativeness and connectivity.

• **Scope and approaches**

- Promote the two ways to achieve target 11:
 - Protected areas

- Other effective area-based conservation measures
 - Produce and disseminate further guidance (criteria and steps) relating to representation and connectivity
 - Hold expert meetings
 - Facilitate capacity-building for MPA managers, local stakeholders, communities and institutions by
 - assessing and communicating the values, costs and benefits of MPAs and networks
 - holding training workshops
 - e-learning
 - Information sharing
 - Development of case studies, best practices, guidelines, etc.
 - Define a strategy to foster synergies between MPAs, fisheries and other sectors
 - Undertake work on multiples scales as follows:
 - Global :
 - Undertake resource mobilization
 - Provide technical and financial support for cross-regional learning and information sharing
 - Regional:
 - Work/collaborate with regional organizations to develop and implement strategies for the Aichi marine and coastal targets (eg. PEMSEA, etc)
 - Subregional
 - Utilize existing frameworks, such as Regional Seas Programmes, multi-stakeholders platforms, etc.
- **Short-term priority areas (by COP 11)**
 - Organize potential special SOI sessions on MPAs at the following international events in 2012 and request SCBD to participate:
 - WSSD 2012 MPA targets
 - 6th Global Oceans Forum
 - SBSTTA 16 (April, 2012)
 - Ramsar Congress (June, 2012)
 - RIO + 20 (June, 2012)
 - East Asian Seas Congress 2012 (July 2012)
 - Yeosu Expo, Korea (high level event on marine and coastal biodiversity, June 20th)
 - IUCN World Conservation Congress , Jeju, Korea (September, 2012)
 - COP 11, India
 - Review the current state of MPAs and update the World Database on Protected Areas (with UNEP-WCMC)
 - Organize a SOI meeting on implementing the Aichi marine and coastal targets (MPA),
 - Invite regional seas organization and programmes to share experience and opportunities for implementing and achieving Aichi targets 11
 - Organize a SOI meeting at IMPAC 3, Marseille, Oct 2013

- **Partners and resources for implementation**

- French MPA agency
- Norway and/or other countries
- IOC-UNESCO
- IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme
- Regional and subregional programmes and organizations (regional MPA networks)
- International development agencies (e.g., JICA)
- Private sectors involvement and sponsorship
- International conservation IGO and NGO's
- Financial resources are needed for
 - Participation in International 2012 events
 - Various SOI meetings/training workshops
 - IMPAC 3 SOI meeting
 - Communication, outreach / fundraising
 - Human resources
 - Support staff for SOI -SCBD, UNU IAS, IUCN marine programme, others
 - Technical resources
 - Existing social MPA networks
