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9 March 2015

## NOTIFICATION

### **Actions towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11: including areas of particular importance for biodiversity and improving ecological representation**

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision XI/24, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties to undertake major efforts to achieve all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and, in particular, to improve marine protected areas in all areas within their jurisdiction and to ensure that networks comprising both such marine protected areas and terrestrial protected areas are: representative (by completing ecological assessments and implementing the results); inclusive of areas important for biodiversity; managed effectively and equitably; connected and integrated into wider land- and seascapes; and inclusive of diversified types of governance for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

The fourth *Global Biodiversity Outlook* has reported varying levels of progress for elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Taking into account the many submissions from Parties in response to notification 2014-003, the quantitative elements (17 per cent terrestrial and 10 per cent coastal and marine areas) of the target are on track to be achieved at the global level for both terrestrial and marine areas within national jurisdiction, with only an additional 1.6 per cent needed in each case. However, the other elements relating to ecological representation, coverage of areas important for biodiversity, management effectiveness, governance, and integration of protected areas into wider land- and seascapes, still need more attention in order to be achieved<sup>1</sup>.

Many areas of particular importance for biodiversity and both terrestrial and marine ecological regions are not within protected areas, and even if they are, they are often not effectively managed for species conservation. Therefore, Parties are invited to plan and undertake actions (in line with actions identified in programme of work on protected area action plans and updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans) to protect and effectively manage these areas and ecological regions in order to achieve all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Such focused actions and their implementation would also contribute to other Aichi Biodiversity Targets including 5,10,12,13 and 15.

In this respect, I would like to draw to your attention a number of information sources that may be useful in addressing some of the elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the 2014 Protected Planet Report: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources-and-data/protected-planet-report-2014>

To: National Focal Points to the CBD, PoWPA Focal Points



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With respect to areas of particular importance for biodiversity, BirdLife International has coordinated the identification of over 12,000 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)<sup>2</sup> worldwide, and has recently highlighted a subset of 356 IBAs in Danger<sup>3</sup> that face the most severe threats. The Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE)<sup>4</sup> has identified sites supporting the last remaining populations of one or more Endangered or Critically Endangered species (as listed on the IUCN Red List), thereby providing a tool to focus conservation efforts to prevent potential imminent global extinctions, consistent with Aichi Biodiversity Target 12<sup>5</sup>.

With respect to ecological representation, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) has updated the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas<sup>6</sup> which presents information on the coverage of terrestrial and marine ecological regions under existing protected areas using the 2014 World Database of Protected Areas in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

To implement their identified actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, countries may also consider making use of biodiversity allocations under the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility<sup>7</sup>, multilateral and bilateral aid as well as national budgets as per decision XI/24 which invites Parties to align the protected area projects of the Global Environment Facility, as well those supported by bilateral and other funding sources, with the actions identified in national action plans for the programme of work (decision XI/24, paragraphs (a) and (g)).

In collaboration with partners, the Secretariat stands ready to assist Parties, as may be required, including through the compilation of relevant information and, subject to available funding, plans to provide a platform for discussing the specific planned actions of Parties to address conservation gaps via webinars, online courses and face-to-face capacity-building workshops.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/programmes/important-bird-and-biodiversity-areas-ibas>  
also see the database at <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/siteprotection>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/IBAsInDanger>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.zeroextinction.org/> ; also see the database at <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/siteprotection>

<sup>5</sup> See CBD notification 2015-010 requesting information on recent actions and plans related to the conservation of migratory bird species

<sup>6</sup> <http://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/explorer/>

<sup>7</sup> BD 1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems – programmes 1 (Improving Financial Sustainability and Effective Management of the National Ecological Infrastructure) and 2 (Nature’s Last Stand: Expanding the Reach of the Global Protected Area Estate); BD 2: Reduce Threats to Globally Significant Biodiversity - programme 3 (Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species); and BD 3: Sustainably Use Biodiversity – programme 6 (Ridge to Reef+: Maintaining Integrity and Function of Globally Significant Coral Reef Ecosystems).

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