



Achieving the
2010
Biodiversity
Target

Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological Diversity



CBD

STATEMENT

by

AHMED DJOGLAF

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

to the

**SECOND INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEETING OF
THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM
LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES (GPA)**

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413 Saint-Jacques Street West, Suite 800
Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 1N9

Tel.: +1.514.288.2220
Fax: +1.514.288.6588

www.biodiv.org
secretariat@biodiv.org

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honour to address the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

At the outset, I would like to pay a special tribute to Ms. Veerle Vandeweerd. Her achievements as the Head of the GPA Office and her commitment to the implementation of the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity in relation to land-based activities negatively impacting marine ecosystems are praiseworthy.

The Convention on Biological Diversity and the GPA share common interests with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources and the prevention of the physical alteration and destruction of marine and coastal habitats as a result of land-based activities. In 2000, the Convention Secretariat and the GPA Coordination Office noted the complementary and mutually supportive mandates of the GPA and the Convention's programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, adopted in 1998. They agreed that promoting integration and consistency in implementation of both the Convention and the GPA at the national, regional and global level would be greatly beneficial to the Parties to the Convention and to the GPA stakeholders. Therefore, they signed a memorandum of cooperation to ensure harmonized implementation, at the global, regional and national level, of the work under the GPA and that of Convention relating to marine and coastal biodiversity.

Since then, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention has reviewed and further developed its programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity. It strengthened it with new activities addressing, *inter alia*, ecological and socio-economic consequences of physical degradation and destruction of marine and coastal habitats, and a specific work plan on coral bleaching resulting from climate change. The Conference of the Parties has always called for synergy in the implementation of the GPA; the regional seas programmes, conventions and action plans; and related work in other biodiversity-related conventions.

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8), held in March 2006 in the historic city of Curitiba in Brazil, was a milestone in the life of the Convention in the sense that it launched a new phase of enhanced implementation of the Convention for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources. Given the magnitude of the impacts of land-activities on biodiversity, the Conference of the Parties made a number of commitments in its decisions to protect marine biodiversity from such activities. In order to ensure coherence in the identified priority activities, the Parties also agreed on a few measurable targets that reinforce and operationalize the 2010 biodiversity target, adopted in 2002 and endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In doing so, the Parties emphasized the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity for sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially for poor people, and agreed on the target of achieving a substantial reduction by 2010 of land- and sea-based sources of marine pollution and their impacts on biodiversity,

through, *inter alia*, the implementation of the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, on island biodiversity and on protected areas.

In fact, all the work programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity collectively contribute to addressing the needs of the GPA. Examples of agreed measures of particular relevance to the GPA include: calls for the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management; establishment and maintenance of effective marine and coastal protected areas; implementation of climate-change adaptation and mitigation measures in land-use and coastal zone planning and strategies; identification of management practices and technologies that manage impacts of agriculture and forestry on biodiversity; protection, recovery and restoration of forest biodiversity; integration of biodiversity into water-resource and river-basin management and relevant sectoral plans and policies; and the application of low-cost technology and innovative approaches to water-resource management.

The Conference of the Parties have also developed many important tools that can help Parties to achieve the objectives of the GPA. For example, at their eighth meeting, the Parties adopted the voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment, which provide guidance on how to assess strategically or in the field the impacts of land-based activities on the wider environment, in particular marine and coastal areas. These are complemented by the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments on regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities.

The Convention's guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development are another useful reference for Governments, the private sector and civil society on how to minimize impacts and promote biodiversity-friendly tourism. In particular, the ecosystem approach, endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which is now supported by an extensive database of case-studies and a comprehensive toolkit to assist Parties with implementation, is the primary framework for implementation of all aspects of the Convention. These provisions are backed by political commitment at the highest level by our 188 Parties.

In order to avoid unnecessary duplication, but to promote synergy in the implementation of the GPA and the Convention, there is a need to review the memorandum of cooperation adopted in 2000 and agree on joint activities that take into account the progress made, including, in particular, ways and means to assess the occurrence and impact of land-based activities that affect marine biodiversity, and to harmonize reporting and exchange of information and experiences. The meeting held a few days ago and the resultant elements for collaboration between the Convention and the regional seas programme conventions and action plans is a step in the right direction. I take this opportunity to thank those who participated in the meeting and congratulate UNEP for taking the lead.

The Convention Secretariat stands ready to cooperate with the GPA Coordinating Office to strengthen implementation of the GPA nationally, regionally and globally, and to contribute to the achievement of the specific targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and of the Convention's programme of work on marine and coastal

biodiversity. I also invite all GPA stakeholders to contribute case-studies and experiences to the in-depth review of the application of the ecosystem approach, to be carried out by SBSTTA, the Convention's scientific advisory body, at its twelfth meeting in July 2007 and by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in 2008. The Conference of the Parties will also review in depth the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, including the application of the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM), in 2010. Implementation of the GPA will be considered as part of the reports.

The GPA and the Convention are intricately linked. We have common goals and an equal stake in an uncertain, but not pre-determined, future. Successes and failures are ours to share. I give you my fullest commitment to work with you and wish you a successful meeting, but more so, successful implementation of the GPA.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a successful review meeting.
