



CBD

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

**Statement by Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif,
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
to the
World Ocean Week in Xiamen
Xiamen, P.R. China, 2-6 November 2007**

Ladies and Gentleman,

I would like to first congratulate Xiamen Municipal Government and citizens for their remarkable achievements in integrated coastal management (ICM). Xiamen is now being recognized by global community as a model city for ICM, in particular for their efforts in restoring the water quality of Yundang Lake and protecting marine biodiversity, such as white dolphin. Xiamen's success in environmental management is particularly valuable as the city has been able to demonstrate that environmental quality and ecosystem health can be improved while maintaining high level of GDP increase at more than 12 percent per year and receiving significant influx of population from other areas in China.

I am happy to note that the demonstration of successful ICM implementation by Xiamen is now being replicated throughout the East Asian region, in partnership with the GEF/UNDP Regional Programme PEMSEA and the PEMSEA network of local governments for sustainable coastal development. On-ground changes made by local governments and communities and partnerships in action among various stakeholders for conserving coastal and marine biodiversity, as observed in Xiamen and East Asian Region, are shedding positive lights to our endeavors in crystallizing effective strategies and actions toward the enhanced implementation of international conventions and action plans for sustainable development, including the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I also highly recognize Xiamen's initiatives for sharing their experiences, expertise and knowledge in coastal management with other coastal cities through a global network and facilitating joint commitments among coastal cities toward achieving their common goal of sustainable coastal development and biodiversity conservation, as manifested by Xiamen Declaration on Coastal Cities signed by Xiamen International Forum for Coastal Cities in 2005.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which entered into force on 29 December 1993 and currently has 190 Parties, aims at achieving three objectives, namely the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its utilization.

To achieve a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties to the Convention committed



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themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. This target was later endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and forms now part of the Millennium Development Goals.

In this regard, I would like to highlight that the Convention on Biological Diversity and the participants to the World Ocean Week in Xiamen share common interests and objectives, with particular respect to the achievement of 2010 biodiversity targets, and the application of integrated coastal management approach. In this regard, I sincerely hope that your present and future events take a due account of 2010 biodiversity targets and facilitate discussion among representatives of coastal cities on effectively incorporating biodiversity targets into the development and implementation of their coastal management policies and strategies.

The Conference of the Parties to the CBD recognized that integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM) provides an overarching management framework for addressing cross-sectoral issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, and incorporated IMCAM as key element of the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, at its seventh meeting. IMCAM enhances the application of ecosystem approach, the establishment of marine protected areas, and planning of proper coastal land and watershed use, which were identified as useful approaches and tools to address threats to sustainable ocean development in the Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

In particular, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD recommended Parties and other Governments to facilitate effective implementation of integrated marine and coastal management by encouraging participation by indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders; considering the development of institutional structures and other modalities; developing and adopting a national strategy; undertaking a comprehensive review of domestic environmental other related legislation; considering appropriate institutional mechanisms to support the provisions of the relevant international and regional instruments; effective enforcement of legislation; and considering participation in international initiatives and agreements.

The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to compile and analyze case-studies on successful and unsuccessful implementation of integrated marine and coastal management. I would like to therefore encourage all the coastal cities at this event to share their experiences and lessons in coastal management through the CBD processes.

Likewise, I wish to draw your attention to the commitments made at the WSSD for the establishment of representative marine protected areas networks by 2012. This target is also reflected in the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity under the Convention, adopted in 2004 by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD at its seventh meeting.

The ecosystem approach, which is the primary framework for action under the Convention and was endorsed by the WSSD, is now explained and operationalized through an extensive database of case-studies and a comprehensive toolkit to assist Parties with implementation. Other agreed measures by CBD of particular relevance to coastal cities include: 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 resources management; and identification of management practices and technologies that manage impacts of agriculture and forestry on biodiversity.

In line with our efforts for further strengthening the role of Secretariat in supporting the enhanced implementation of the Convention, the CBD Secretariat is ready to actively cooperate with various actors and stakeholders of coastal cities in a global network. In this regard, I invite all of you to contribute to the achievement of 2010 biodiversity targets as well as the implementation of the relevant programme of works of the CBD, in particular related to the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management, establishment of marine protected areas, and the application of ecosystem based management.

Finally, I would like to convey to you my deep appreciation for the honor bestowed on the Secretariat of the CBD to address this important event, World Ocean Week in Xiamen, and invite all of you to join forces for the celebration in 2010 of the International Year on Biodiversity proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. I sincerely wish all of you a fruitful discussion and successful conclusion of the World Ocean Week and the International Forum.

Thank you for your attention.
