



STATEMENT

BY MR. AHMED DJOGLAF

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**OCEANS DAY
23 OCTOBER 2010, NAGOYA, JAPAN**

**TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
(COP-10)**

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COP 10 / MOP 5

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, the Government of Japan, the Government of France, the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, and the other collaborating organizations for convening this special event to highlight the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity and the urgent need to mobilize ocean stakeholders from all sectors to address the threats facing the oceans. In particular, I wish to express a sincere tribute to Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain for her remarkable leadership and never-ending passion for the ocean.

It is very appropriate that we are gathered here in Japan, a land whose history and culture are so intertwined with its surrounding waters, to address the most pressing threats to marine and coastal biodiversity and discuss ways to sustain its long-term health and well-being.

As scientific progress improves our understanding of the importance of the biodiversity of the world's oceans and coastal areas, we are beginning to see the clear interlinkages between the well-being of marine biodiversity and that of our own. In spite of this improved understanding, however, human activities pose the most immediate danger to the oceans.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity recently released the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which shows that marine biodiversity continues to decline at an unprecedented rate. Despite many efforts to address the drivers of this decline in recent decades, marine biodiversity is still being rapidly depleted, and important marine habitats are still being lost, compromising the valuable ecosystem services that they provide.

Many marine ecosystems provide valuable services to coastal areas, such as protection from coastal storms, and serve as nurseries for many commercially valuable fish species. Marine fish and invertebrates provide over 2.6 billion people with at least 20% of their average per capita protein intake. It is, therefore, important to act now for the protection of these valuable marine resources so that they may continue to provide these essential services and support the many livelihoods that depend on them.

In light of the need to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, the international community has endorsed a number of targets to address these threats, including the establishment of representative networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2012 consistent with international law and based on scientific information.

As we have seen, however, the 2010 biodiversity targets have not been met, and it is unlikely that the 2012 MPA target will be met. Nevertheless, some progress has been made towards the achievement of these goals. For example, some species of previously overexploited and depleted fish stocks have begun to stabilize in the last 10 to 15 years, and MPAs are increasingly being established and managed in territorial waters, demonstrating considerable action at the national level towards the conservation of marine biodiversity.

We can look to these positive examples to provide us with clues as to how to improve the effectiveness of management efforts in the next decade. These initiatives, however, must be supported by clear and achievable goals. In this regard, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will adopt here in Nagoya a new Strategic Plan for 2011-2020, which contains targets

for mobilizing urgent and comprehensive action at the international level in order to reverse the tide of rapid biodiversity loss.

The Jakarta Mandate of 1995 was instrumental in guiding the adoption and implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity under the Convention. However, in the past 15 years, new drivers of biodiversity loss, in particular those emerging threats caused by climate change and ocean acidification, and new scientific research, have led the global community to further develop and refine approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. I therefore call for urgent action by the Parties to the Convention to renew their commitments to conserve and protect the life of the oceans.

In this regard, I invite all of you to actively participate in the discussion at this Oceans Day forum and work together toward the development of the Nagoya Oceans Declaration as a timely initiative towards mobilizing the support of various stakeholders in renewing global commitments to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. This initiative will also prove instrumental to the successful implementation of the new Strategic Plan for the Convention and in catalysing long-term partnerships and collaboration on the road to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and Rio+20.

Achieving our goals and improving the health of the oceans will require the engagement of all relevant sectors and civil-society groups. Our success depends on collaborative efforts, with the inherent understanding that our own well-being depends on the health of the oceans.

Thank you for your attention.