



SBSTTA 24 online session - Feb, 2021
Agenda Item 6 - Marine and coastal biodiversity

Madam / Mister Chair

This intervention is delivered on behalf of the CBD Alliance and gathers a diverse range of views and proposals from civil society.

The sea provides food security and livelihoods for millions of people worldwide. This relationship is diverse and complex. Up to now, the blue economy discourse has not reflected the intrinsic value of a strong relationship based on traditional knowledge of rights holders of coastal, marine, and island territories. A vision based exclusively on economic value and market-oriented proposals is neither just or equitable for guaranteeing the transformative conservation efforts that need to be recognized besides the economic, social, cultural, environmental values of the ocean, and its resources, and its people.

Threats to Marine and coastal biodiversity

We urgently need to protect the ocean from threats like plastic pollution, abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear, overfishing, destructive techniques, ocean heating, acidification, deoxygenation and anthropogenic marine noise, which has doubled in some areas of the oceans every decade for the past 70 years. (McDonald et al 2006, Weilgart 2018). These threats are eroding the ocean's ability to function as our life support system and this requires its explicit inclusion in targets 1, 2, and 17.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Local communities and indigenous peoples are the active care-takers of the sea, with examples of local governance that promote sustainable use and management of those marine territories. We must ensure that our conservation initiatives promote and protect these efforts and guarantee recognition of local and indigenous governance models that can reduce ocean grabbing by economic and industrial interests. The support of a human rights-based ecosystem approach to marine conservation and marine spatial planning is crucial.

It is also crucial to recognize the rights and traditional knowledge and practices of IPLCs, taking into account the role of women in all their diversity as holders of rights and traditional knowledge and the duty to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and ensure their meaningful participation in the description and modification of

ecologically or biologically significant marine areas as well as in any decisions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity that affect them.

Voluntary guidelines for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF)

The implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication brings a human rights-based approach to marine conservation ensuring the cost of this conservation is not paid by IPLC. Any efforts for marine conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity should guarantee tenure and access rights to local, coastal and island communities previously.

Deep-sea ecosystems

We urge COP-15 to reiterate and reinforce the decision taken by COP-7 to “urgently take the necessary short-term, medium-term and long-term measures to eliminate/avoid destructive practices” to the biodiversity of seamounts and other underwater features, hydrothermal vents, cold-water corals and other vulnerable ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction (COP-7, Decision VII/5, paragraphs 58-62).

The biodiversity found in deep abyssal plains is particularly vulnerable with recovery times from human impacts estimated to be thousands to millions of years. It is imperative that any consideration of resource extraction activities in the deep sea must be considered within the context of a highly precautionary approach and consider the impacts on and risks to marine biodiversity, life, ecosystem functions and services, planetary health and food security.

Likewise, we encourage parties to prohibit marine geoengineering that entails incalculable risks to marine biodiversity and numerous environment and development goals.

Other Effective Conservation Measures

The designation of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) should include Indigenous Community Conserved Areas, Marine Managed Areas, Locally Management Marine Areas and other fisheries co-management arrangements. The management of these areas should privilege selective, small-scale fishing practices. Monitoring elements and indicators for this target (Target 2) can include reporting on the number, area and contributions of such areas.

The principles of preferential access to, and sustainable use of, marine and inland wild capture fishery resources by IPLC small-scale fishers and fish workers should be promoted while considering the role of women in SSF and ensuring legal and safe harvest of these resources (Target 8).

Thank you,