

Implementation of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, including the CBD multi-year programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity

In 1998, the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted decision IV/5 containing the multi-year programme of work for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. The fifth and sixth meetings of COP further adopted decisions V/3 and VI/3 respectively, containing additional priorities for the programme of work. It is expected that the seventh meeting of COP (COP-7), which will be held in February 2004, will result in new major elaborations to the programme of work, pending the adoption of the recommendations of the two meetings of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) held in 2003.

The eighth meeting of SBSTTA (SBSTTA-8) was held in Montreal from 10 to 14 March 2003. SBSTTA-8 adopted recommendation VIII/3 A-D on marine and coastal biological diversity. The ninth meeting of SBSTTA (SBSTTA-9), which took place from 10 to 14 November 2003 considered marine-related issues in the context of agenda items on protected areas (recommendation IX/4), biological diversity and climate change (recommendation IX/11) and outcome-oriented targets (recommendation IX/13). The major relevant outcomes of SBSTTA-8 and SBSTTA-9 are reported on below. It should be emphasized that these recommendations will be considered by COP-7, and that a revised report will be submitted by the Secretariat of the CBD in the light of the outcomes of COP-7.

On the issue of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs), SBSTTA-8 recommended that COP endorse a global goal for the Convention in regards to MCPAs, which provides for the establishment and maintenance, by 2012, of MCPAs that are effectively managed, ecologically based and contribute to a permanent representa

management of marine and coastal protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, and report his findings to the Conference of the Parties.

In addition, SBSTTA-8 considered a study on the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of the deep seabed. This study was requested by the second meeting of the COP (decision II/10), and was undertaken jointly by the Secretariat of the CBD and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (UNDOALOS), with contributions from the International Seabed Authority. SBSTTA recommended that COP request the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Parties and Governments and in collaboration with relevant international organizations such as UNDOALOS, UNEP, the International Seabed Authority and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, to compile and synthesize information on the status and trends of deep seabed genetic resources and on methods to identify, assess and monitor such genetic resources, including identification of threats to such resources. SBSTTA also recommended that COP request Parties and other States to identify activities and processes under their jurisdiction or control which may have significant adverse impact on deep sea ecosystems and species beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, in order to comply with Article 3 of the Convention. SBSTTA further recommended that COP invite the United Nations General Assembly to call upon relevant international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Hydrographic Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, to review issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of the deep seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly regarding appropriate actions.

On the topic of mariculture, SBSTTA-8 recommended that COP endorse activities and best practices to be undertaken to avoid the adverse effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity, and to enhance its positive effects. Future research priorities were also recommended for endorsement.

The Convention is in the process of operationalizing its efforts to reach the target adopted in decision VI/23 to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level. As part of this effort, more specific outcome-oriented targets will be developed for thematic programmes of work, including marine and coastal biodiversity. These targets, which are currently in draft format, refer to specific, marine and coastal-oriented goals, such as the development of a global system of marine and coastal protected areas, making fisheries and mariculture sustainable, blocking the pathways of invasions of alien species, and increasing ecosystem resilience to climate change. A first draft of these targets was reviewed by SBSTTA-9, and a revised version will be presented to COP-7 for endorsement.

The programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity has been elaborated pursuant