

Annex

Information on developments within the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea

Executive Summary

This note summarizes recent work under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relevant to ocean affairs and the law of the sea that have taken place, or will take place, between September 2022 and August 2023.

In December, during the second part of its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) as well as a number of other decisions focused on supporting its implementation, including decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity (ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and conservation and sustainable use). To provide a basis for future guidance to Parties to support their efforts to implement the KMGBF in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the

MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 15, 5 to 17 December 2022)

Decision 15/4: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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and coastal biodiversity and to contribute to monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Framework;

- x Requested the Secretariat, upon the adoption of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, to identify potential options for modalities for collaboration and cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations in the context of

ensuring that the best available scientific and technical information and traditional knowledge of various users of marine resources are used and that the products are scientifically sound and up-to-date.

11. While discussions on this issue, most recently at COP 15, have brought forth valuable insights on ways to improve the EBSA process and the use of EBSA information, the COP has unfortunately not yet been able to find consensus on all elements of this issue. Important elements of these discussions include: (a) Modalities to modify the description of areas described as meeting the EBSA criteria, considered by the Conference of the Parties and included into the repository; (b) Modalities to describe new areas meeting the EBSA criteria; and (c) Actors who can propose the modification of EBSAs and the description of new EBSAs.

Online discussion forums on marine and coastal biodiversity in preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

12. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD was unable to complete discussions on marine and coastal biodiversity at its twenty-fourth meeting. Therefore, in its recommendations 24/9 and 24/10, it requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate consultations with a view to advance discussions, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, respectively, on: i) Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and ii) EBSAs. In response to these requests, the Secretariat organized an online discussion forum on each of these two issues. The first was held in the second was held
from 14 to 21 September 2022 and is summarized below. Each forum was preceded and followed by an opening and a closing webinar.

13. The online discussion forum on EBSAs (<https://www.cbd.int/marine/forum/sept-2022>), was

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15. In [decision 15/8](#)

21. The aim of the workshop is to identify and discuss various capacity needs related to the implementation and monitoring of the Framework in marine and coastal areas, including with respect to its goals, targets and indicators. It is expected that participants in the workshop will produce a priority list of capacity needs that will be useful in guiding future capacity-building activities, including those under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. The workshop will include thematic presentations with question-and-answer sessions, plenary sessions and moderated discussions, breakout group exercises and discussions.

- x Sustainable Ocean Initiative national capacity-building workshop for Thailand (24-25 November 2022, Bangkok, Thailand)

22. The SOI national workshop for Thailand was convened by the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI) together with the Thailand Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning and the Faculty of Sciences at Ramkhamhaeng University, and with funding support from the Government of the Republic of Korea (through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries) and the International Climate Initiative (through the GOBI project and the Climate Coastal and Marine Biodiversity project). The workshop gathered key stakeholders in Thailand to build technical capacity, disseminate knowledge, and enhance understanding on the topic of EBSAs, other effective conservation measures (OECMs), and marine spatial planning.

- x Sustainable Ocean Initiative national workshop for Jamaica on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

