

Ref.: SCBD/SSSF/JL/JA/JC/1463

2 February 2024

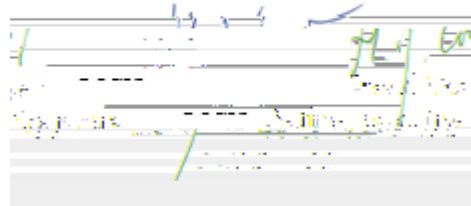
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Reference is made to the letter from Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, dated 18 December 2023, inviting the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to provide input to the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 78/69 on developments and issues relating to Oceans and the Law of the Sea, V SHFLILFDOO\ RQ WKH WKHPH 37KH R, WHD QIL De the of U R X U F H R of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea at its twenty-fourth meeting.

Appended herewith is the contribution of the CBD Secretariat regarding activities relevant to the abovementioned theme.

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea is invited to post the full text of this contribution on its website.

Yours sincerely,



Attachment



Annex

Information on work under the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to
the ocean as a source of sustainable food

as on the ecosystem functions and services that they underpin, that it also impacts biodiversity through direct and indirect drivers, and that the loss of biodiversity can impact it negatively, potentially threatening food security and nutrition, as well as the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

7. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties recognized that healthy marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems and biodiversity, and the traditional practices of sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities, are essential to achieve sustainable increases and improved resilience in the provision of food and livelihoods, and they outlined a number of specific actions and approaches to be taken by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to support mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture.

8. Through the [Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being](#), ministers and other heads of delegation that met on the occasion of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Cancun in December 2016, committed to undertake specific actions in various sectors, due to their dependence on biodiversity components as well as the impact of these sectors on biodiversity. They noted that marine, coastal and inland ecosystems host a variety of aquatic biological diversity that greatly contribute to the economic, social and cultural aspects of communities around the world. They play a significant role in ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting health and reducing poverty, and are a source of employment and income and offer opportunities for sustainable development. Fisheries and aquaculture depend on the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems to maintain economic, social and ecological benefits in the long term. Biodiversity is the source of wild fisheries, and mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries policies, programmes and plans is key to sustain the habitats which serve as feeding, spawning and nursery sites which are essential for wild fish populations. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are key components of sustainable development. To ensure their sustainability a series of actions that are needed are identified, as follows

- (a) Integrate the ecosystem approach into fisheries policies, programmes and plans in order to enhance sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security and nutrition;
- (b) Take actions for the conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources which contribute to the ongoing sustainability of stocks, to the reduction of impacts on threatened species and aquatic ecosystems and that ensure the long viability of this major sector;
- (c) Safeguard livelihoods, income and employment of fishing communities;
- (d) Conserve marine, coastal, and inland water ecosystems, recognizing their role as carbon stocks and sinks;
- (e) Enhance actions to reduce pollution, including noise and plastic materials that can damage marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems;
- (f) Increase efforts to develop and utilize technological innovations for monitoring, traceability and sustainably managing fisheries and aquaculture to reduce bycatch, discards and waste, and to improve methods in such a way as to guarantee long viability;
- (g) Promote and encourage sustainable aquaculture;
- (h) Adequately prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species;
- (i) Develop strategies to reduce illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
- (j) Strengthen the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

ONE HEALTH APPROACH

9. The crucial linkages between biodiversity and human health have gained significant prominence in discussions under the CBD in recent years, including in the context of the One Health approach. The Conference of the Parties stressed the importance of this issue in the KMGBF, as follows:

The Framework acknowledges the interlinkages between biodiversity and health and the three objectives of the Convention. The Framework is to be implemented with consideration of the One Health Approach, among other holistic approaches that are based on science, mobilize multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to work together, and aim to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems, recognizing the need for equitable access to tools and technologies including medicines, vaccines and other health products related to biodiversity, while highlighting the urgent need to reduce pressures on biodiversity and decrease environmental degradation to reduce risks to health, and, as appropriate, develop practical access and benefit sharing mechanisms (Section C, paragraph r).

10. In decision 15/29, the Conference of the Parties recognized the relevance of sustainable consumption and production patterns on the interlinkages between biodiversity and health, and that the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, could contribute to health and well-being for all.

11. The Convention on Biological Diversity has advanced work on the development of a Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, which will be considered by the Parties at the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in May 2024. The draft global action plan on biodiversity and health provides a set of voluntary actions intended to complement other national, regional and global efforts to address the interlinkages between biodiversity and health. It also aims to encourage relevant government authorities and stakeholders to collaborate closely and coordinate their work on these interlinkages.