



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/JL/JG/64491

29 July 2008

## NOTIFICATION

### Voluntary report on implementation of the Programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

The purpose of this notification is to invite Parties and relevant organizations to provide information on (i) status and trends of, and threats to, marine and coastal biological diversity; and (ii) progress made in the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its fourteenth meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held in May/June 2010 in Bonn, Germany.

In paragraph 9 of decision VIII/14, the Conference of the Parties (COP) invited Parties to provide, on a voluntary basis, information for the in-depth review of thematic programmes included in the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010. In paragraph 9 of decision VIII/15, the COP endorsed the goals and global outcome-oriented targets integrated into the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, noting that they are intended as guidance to Parties in their implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In annex II of decision VIII/10, the COP decided to undertake the in-depth review of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity at its tenth meeting, following its consideration by SBSTTA-14, to be held prior to the tenth meeting of the COP.

Parties and relevant organizations are invited to submit, on a voluntary basis, to the Executive Secretary, as soon as possible but **no later than 31 December 2008**, information on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, including progress made towards achieving the goals, challenges, as well as obstacles and capacity-building needs. Parties and relevant organizations are also invited to provide information on the status and trends of, and threats to, marine and coastal biological diversity. Information may be presented in any format and submitted preferably electronically. Appended herewith is guidance for the submission of the information, for your reference.

Please accept, Madam / Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

#### Attachment

To: CBD National Focal Points, relevant organizations



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United Nations  
Environment Programme

413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800  
Montreal, QC H2Y 1N9, Canada

Tel : +1 514 288 2220  
Fax : +1 514 288 6588

<http://www.cbd.int>  
[secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)

## ANNEX

### **Guidance for the submission of information for the review of implementation of the Programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity**

1. In collecting and compiling relevant information for submission, refer to “Guidelines for the review of the programmes of work on the Convention”, as contained in annex III of decision VIII/15.
2. Table 1 below can be used, on a voluntary basis, as a summary framework for compiling relevant information. It would be useful if the relevant partners that have contributed to the implementation activities were specified, referring to the list of potential partners identified in the programme of work, as indicated in the table.
3. Provide case studies of good and bad practices, success and failure, and lessons learned from the implementation of the programme of work that can illustrate and provide insight on: (i) the contribution of the programme of work to Parties in implementing the Convention; (ii) the contribution of the programme of work in reducing the rate of biodiversity loss; and (iii) the effectiveness of the programme of work in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
4. Provide suggestions for modification of the existing programme of work, if necessary.
5. Provide information on the mobilization of the necessary financial resources, in particular those facilitated by the Convention Secretariat and other partners.

**Table 1.** Summary framework for collecting and compiling information for the review of implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (to be applied on a voluntary basis)

<b>Operational objectives of the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (annex I of decision VII/5)</b>	<b>Partners identified in the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (annex I of decision VII/5)</b>	<b>Progress made in implementation – <i>input from UNEP-WCMC</i></b>	<b>Barriers to implementation</b>	<b>Priorities for capacity-building to address the barriers</b>
<i>1.1:</i> To apply appropriate policy instruments and strategies, including building of capacity, for the effective implementation of IMCAM	Regional and international organizations			
<i>1.2:</i> To undertake direct action to protect the marine environment from negative impacts	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment			

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	from Land-based Activities			
<p><b>1.3:</b> To develop guidelines for ecosystem evaluation and assessment, paying attention to the need to identify and select indicators, including social and abiotic indicators that distinguish between natural and human-induced effects.</p>	<p>Regional Seas conventions and action plans</p>			
<p><b>2.1:</b> To promote ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, including the identification of key variables or interactions, for the purpose of assessing and monitoring, first, components of biological diversity; second, the sustainable use of such components; and, third, ecosystem effects.</p>	<p>FAO</p>			
<p><b>2.2:</b> To make available to the Parties information on marine genetic resources in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and, as</p>	<p>UNDOALOS, UNEP, IOC</p>			

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appropriate, on coastal and marine genetic resources under national jurisdiction from publicly available information sources.				
<p><b>2.3:</b> To gather and assimilate information on, build capacity to mitigate the effects of, and to promote policy development, implementation strategies and actions to address: (i) the biological and socio-economic consequences of physical degradation and destruction of key marine and coastal habitats including mangrove ecosystems, tropical and cold-water coral-reef ecosystems, seamount ecosystems and seagrass ecosystems including identification and promotion of management practices, methodologies and policies to reduce and mitigate impacts upon marine and coastal biological diversity and to restore mangrove forests and rehabilitate</p>	<p>International Coral Reef Initiative and its partners, UNEP-RSP, IOC</p>	<p><b>Our Precious Coasts - Marine Pollution, Climate Change and the Resilience of Coastal Ecosystems (2006)</b>  Massive coral bleaching episodes have impacted the function of the reefs and increased rates of mortality. Coral reefs support over one million plant and animal species and their economic value is projected to more than US\$ 30 billion annually. Extreme climatic conditions, however, are most likely to increase in the future with current climate scenarios. Projected increases in carbon dioxide and temperature exceed the conditions under which coral reefs have flourished over the past 500 000 years. Coral reefs are crucial biodiversity hotspots and support both coastal fisheries and tourism in many regions. The report highlights new findings which indicate that the ability of coral reefs to survive in a globally-warming world may crucially depend on the levels of pollution to which they are exposed. <b>Our Precious Coasts</b> was prepared by a Rapid Response Team at UNEP GRID Arendal and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre as a broad collaborative effort across various UNEP programmes and activities with contributors from regional UNEP Offices, GRID Sioux Falls, GPA, Nature Seychelles, Norwegian Institute of Nature Research and University of Life Sciences in Norway. The report is available at <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/PDFs/Corals/vitalcoastreport_lr.pdf">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/PDFs/Corals/vitalcoastreport_lr.pdf</a></p> <p><b>The Status, threats and significance of African Mangroves.</b>  Recognizing the significance of mangrove ecosystems to dependent human communities, and reports of the rapid loss of this ecosystem, UNEP-WCMC (with the financial support of the Governments of Ireland and Belgium and in partnership with UNEP, GPA and WWF) has produced two publications reviewing the status and distribution of mangroves in Africa. The first of the two reports, produced in 2003, provides maps with summaries of information pertaining to the distribution, biodiversity, uses, threats and drivers of change of mangroves for 7 countries of East Africa <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_WCMC_bio_series/13/index.htm">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_WCMC_bio_series/13/index.htm</a>, the second, published in 2007, for 19 West and Central African countries <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_WCMC_bio_series/26.htm">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_WCMC_bio_series/26.htm</a> . The West and Central African publication is currently being translated into French, and is due for release in the last quarter of 2008.</p>		

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<p>damaged coral reef; and in particular (ii) the impacts of mangrove forest destruction, coral bleaching and related mortality on coral-reef ecosystems and the human communities which depend upon coral-reef services, including through financial and technical assistance.</p>		<p><b>Revised World Atlas of Mangroves.</b> The revised World Atlas of Mangroves is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – Man and the Biosphere Programme (UNESCO-MAB), the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the United Nations University – International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). This product will serve to strengthen awareness for the protection and sustainable management of mangrove habitats at a local, regional and global level and is due for release in 2009.</p> <p><b>Reefs at Risk Revisited.</b> ICRAN, the World Resources Institute and UNEP-WCMC are working together to build upon the previously successful and highly utilised Reefs at Risk. Since this map based global analysis was published in 1998, we have seen a dramatic decline in the state of the world’s reefs, despite greater public awareness and the recognition of larger threats that demand global action. Reefs at Risk +10 includes new and innovative analyses such as vulnerability to coral bleaching, a social vulnerability analysis, a comparison of change in threat over the last 10 years, and a global economic valuation of coral reefs, in order to help guide future conservation efforts. Due for publication in 2010.</p> <p><b>Coastal and Marine Management and Education in the Southeastern Caribbean.</b> The Buccoo Reef Trust (BRT), in collaboration with ICRAN and regional partners are leading a regional initiative designed to respond to the technical and institutional needs of Trinidad and Tobago for the more effective management of its coral reefs. Actions will be taken to link activities that reduce threats to marine resources, while working with stakeholders and raising awareness of tourists to build their interest and confidence in sustainable conservation efforts. At the same time these actions will build partnerships with the private sector, and promote the exchange and replication of effective management initiatives throughout the southern Caribbean region.</p> <p><b>Cold-water Coral Reef GIS and database.</b> With kind support from NOAA and using UNEP-WCMC’s Interactive Mapping System (IMapS), the UNEP Coral Reef Unit has developed an internet-based tool for easy access to geo-referenced information on cold-water corals. The database currently consist of over 5,000 records provided by scientists and institutes</p>		

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		<p>from around the world. Users are able, <i>inter alia</i>, to map the distribution of cold-water coral groups and individual species (incl. reef-building species), distinguish between records in waters within and beyond national jurisdiction, and display modelling results on the predicted distribution of cold-water corals. The cold-water coral reef GIS and database is accessible at <a href="http://bure.unep-wcmc.org/marine/coldcoral/viewer.htm">http://bure.unep-wcmc.org/marine/coldcoral/viewer.htm</a></p> <p>UNEP-WCMC publication: <b>Deep-sea biodiversity and ecosystems - A scoping report on their socio-economy, management and governance.</b> This report responds to key questions, including: where do we find vulnerable deep sea and high sea ecosystems, what are the goods and services they provide, and how are they affected or threatened by existing or emerging human activities and climate change. It scopes new ways and perspectives for answering these questions by applying modern methods and concepts used in the context of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. With input from leading experts, the report highlights gaps in socio-economic and governance knowledge, analysis shortcomings in assessment methodologies and valuation concepts, and identifies research needs. This results in strong arguments for urgent action to protect and conserve the deep waters, seabed, and high seas, and for the governance and sustainable management of human activities impacting on them.</p> <p>UNEP-WCMC is working in partnership with NOAA to develop the <b>Global Coral Disease Database (GCDD)</b>, the only global repository of coral disease information. The database was established in 2000 to compile and organize published data on the occurrence of coral disease for the benefit of managers, scientists and policy makers. In 2008-9 a new phase of work will be developing the functionality of the database online to increase the accessibility of this information to decision makers responsible for managing coasts and oceans</p> <p>UNEP wide collaboration produced, in 2008, <b>In Dead Water- Merging of Climate Change with Pollution, Over-harvest, and Infestations in the World's Fishing Grounds.</b> In this report, the locations of the most productive fishing grounds in the World - from shallow, coastal waters to the deep and high seas - are compared to projected scenarios of climate change, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, intensity of fisheries, land-based pollution, increase of invasive species infestations and growth in coastal development. <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_RRA.htm">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_RRA.htm</a></p>		
2.4: To enhance the conservation and sustainable	United Nations General Assembly	UNEP-WCMC Publication: <b>Working Toward High Seas Marine Protected Areas</b> ( <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/pubs.htm">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/pubs.htm</a> ) and production of high seas		

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use of biological diversity of marine living resources in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction	and other relevant international and regional organizations	<p>database (officially launched in 2009). (See under 3.2 below)</p> <p>UNEP-WCMC Publication: <b>Seamounts, deep-sea corals and fisheries</b> (cf. <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_WCMC_bio_series/25.htm">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_WCMC_bio_series/25.htm</a>), which reveals the global scale of the vulnerability of habitat-forming stony corals on seamounts – and that of associated marine biodiversity and assemblages – to the impacts of trawling, especially in areas beyond national jurisdiction. It provides some of the best scientific evidence to date to support the call for concerted and urgent action on the high seas to protect seamount communities and their associated resources from the adverse effects of deep-water fishing.</p> <p><b>UNEP/UNEP-WCMC report on deep-sea sponge fields.</b> This report will continue and complement the series of publications and products on vulnerable deep-water ecosystems and biodiversity, prepared under the lead of the UNEP Coral Reef Unit in collaboration with other international partners, with a view to being published in quarter 1 or 2 of 2009. The report will describe, inter alia, the biology of sponges, the ecology of individual sponges, sponge associations and sponge reefs, with particular focus on those found in deep-water. In addition, the report will analyse the threats to sponges from human activities and climate change as well as the past, present and future use of sponges, especially for biomedical research, bioprospecting and pharmaceutical use. The report will conclude with expert considerations and recommendations for the conservation, protection and sustainable management/use of deep-water sponges.</p>		
<b>3.1:</b> To establish and strengthen national and regional systems of marine and coastal protected areas integrated into a global network and as a contribution to globally agreed goals.	Regional and international organizations	<b>Integrating Marine Data into the World Database on Protected Areas.</b> UNEP-WCMC has integrated existing marine protected area global databases, including MPA Global, including details about important high seas areas into <a href="http://www.wdpa-marine.org">www.wdpa-marine.org</a> . The main objective of this initiative was to centralize the management and dissemination of global marine data so it is more accessible to users, consists of best available and updated data, and assists with the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. It builds on the multi-year programme of work at WCMC to build data improvements and validation to the WDPA.		
<b>3.2:</b> To enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in marine areas beyond the	UNDOALOS	UNEP-WCMC Publication: <b>Working Toward High Seas Marine Protected Areas</b> ( <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/pubs.htm">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/pubs.htm</a> ) and production of high seas database (officially launched in 2009). This is an assessment of the range of projects, organizations and initiatives addressing the high seas, a gap analysis of lacking data and knowledge required for the identification and		

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limits of national jurisdiction		establishment of protected areas beyond national jurisdictions, and recommendations for cooperation and improved data gathering. The main aim of this project was to assimilate current knowledge on the status of high seas, determine the existing gaps, and produce recommendations regarding what priority actions are necessary to identify and establish critical areas for a representative MPA network on the high seas according to the criteria currently being developed through the CBD.		
3.3: To achieve effective management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	Regional and international organizations	<b>International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)</b> - Through a grant from the European Union, activities have commenced in the 5 maritime nations of <b>South Asia</b> (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka): to develop management capacity and training tools for staff at marine and coastal protected areas; to improve communications and data management; to strengthen cooperation in marine and coastal management efforts; and to develop a systematic approach to livelihood diversification and enhancement in coastal communities. The project began in 2006, and work is underway in collaboration with country Governments and coastal and marine stakeholders to: (1) Improve the management and operation of 5 existing marine protected areas; developing the skills of staff and creating helpful management resources, while encouraging the sharing of best practices with other sites across the South Asia region; (2) Improve communications and data management to and from MCPA sites, and within the wider region, to promote greater understanding and awareness of ongoing regional conservation efforts; (3) Work alongside coastal communities to enhance their livelihoods and develop and assist them to take up more sustainable livelihood activities, moving away from reef degradation. (4) Establish a South Asia Coral Reef Task Force to promote a regional response to environmental challenges, to improve regional cooperation and coordination of management and conservation efforts, and (5) to assist participating countries to learn from each others experiences. The project is being implemented by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) and the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) in collaboration with UNEP and other international and local partners.		
3.4: To provide support for and facilitate monitoring of national and regional systems of marine and coastal protected areas	UNEP-WCMC	<b>National and Regional Networks of Marine Protected Areas: A Review of Progress</b> -This report provides a review of MPA network programmes underway, to learn from their experiences and relate these to the more theoretical guidance available. It has been structured to achieve the following objectives: promotion of a better understanding of the principles and concepts underlying, the scientific basis for and the issues to be considered in the development of the MPA networks; dissemination of experiences and lessons learned from the initiatives underway at the regional, national and subnational levels (i.e. at different spatial scales); recommendations for improves action towards establishing MPA networks. ( <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean/reports.aspx">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean/reports.aspx</a> )		



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<p><b>3.5:</b> To facilitate research and monitoring activities that reflect identified global knowledge gaps and priority information needs of management of marine and coastal protected areas.</p>	<p>Regional and international organizations, including research organizations</p>	<p><b>Integrating Marine Data into the World Database on Protected Areas.</b> UNEP-WCMC has integrated existing marine protected area global databases, including MPA Global, including details about important high seas areas into <a href="http://www.wdpa-marine.org">www.wdpa-marine.org</a>. The main objective of this initiative was to centralize the management and dissemination of global marine data so it is more accessible to users, consists of best available and updated data, and assists with the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. It builds on the multi-year programme of work at WCMC to build data improvements and validation to the WDPA.</p>		
<p><b>4.1:</b> To promote use of techniques, which minimize adverse impact of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity.</p>	<p>FAO</p>			
<p><b>5.1:</b> To achieve better understanding of the pathways and the causes of the introduction of alien species and the impact of such introductions on biological diversity.</p>	<p>IMO, Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)</p>			
<p><b>5.2:</b> To put in place mechanisms to control all pathways, including shipping, trade and mariculture, for potential invasive alien species in the marine and coastal environment.</p>	<p>IMO, the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), FAO, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</p>			
<p><b>5.3:</b> To maintain an incident</p>				

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list on introductions of alien species				
<p><b>6.1:</b> To assemble a database of initiatives on programme elements through a cooperative approach with relevant organizations and bodies, with special emphasis on integrated marine and coastal areas management.</p>		<p><b>The Global and Regional Assessments of the Marine Environment Database (GRAMED)</b> has been developed at the request of UNEP and IOC/UNESCO, as the lead agencies responsible for taking forward the "Assessment of Assessments" through the implementation of UNGA Resolution 60/30. It was first developed to support the preparation of the 2007 report, Global Marine Assessments: A survey of global and regional assessments and related scientific activities of the marine environment and builds on the 2003 UNEP-WCMC/UNEP/ IOC-UNESCO report "Global Marine Assessments: A survey of global and regional marine environmental assessments and related scientific activities". The GRAMED Database is managed and hosted by UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK. <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/gramed/">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/gramed/</a></p> <p><b>Global Marine Assessments: A survey of global and regional assessments and related scientific activities of the marine environment.</b> UNEP-WCMC Biodiversity Series 27</p> <p>This sequel builds on the 2003 survey to provide a starting point for the Assessment of Assessments. It lays out the components of an effective assessment and summarizes the key considerations for establishing an assessment process, the findings of this latest survey, an analysis of gaps and emerging issues. It also draws lessons from completed assessment processes. (<a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_WCMC_bio_series/27.htm">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_WCMC_bio_series/27.htm</a>)</p>		
<p><b>6.2:</b> To undertake effective collaboration, cooperation and harmonization of initiatives with relevant conventions, organizations and agencies while recognising their independent mandates.</p>	<p>Relevant conventions, organizations and agencies, coordinating units of Regional Seas conventions and action plans.</p>			