



CBD Informal SBSTTA24 Virtual Session 17-19 and 24-26 February, 2021

February 25, 2021

Agenda Item 6. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Statement of the CBD Women's Caucus

In the document (CBD/SBSTTA/24/6) prepared for the formal session of the SBSTTA24, on **ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)** we welcome the recommendations in Annexes 1-XIV, informed by the Brussels workshop (February 2020) in giving recognition to collaborations with the holders of traditional knowledge and we hope it is further strengthened. Indigenous peoples and local communities continue to play a crucial role in the conservation, governance, management and knowledge of marine, coastal areas and islands that today are crucial for all to live in harmony with nature - **and women are an essential part of it**. We encourage CBD and Parties give due gender consideration in ensuring that the collaborations are inclusive, equitable and meaningful and further enhanced to ensure collective efforts in the identification, modification and description of EBSAs, including FPIC.

Further, there is a need to address and reflect this work more visibly in the various elements, components of the Goals and Targets of the new post2020 GBF monitoring framework, including the relevance of and the contributions that possible 321+ EBSAs worldwide could assist (number that we assume will only grow in the coming years).

Creating synergies would be an important aspect of and within the various areas of work within the Convention in mainstreaming some common elements of work to support the review, monitoring, reporting and implementation of the gbf (e.g PASS, OECMs, IAS, LMO besides others) – considering that they are interlinked to assess the ecological and biological and livelihood significance of marine and coastal areas and territories,

Marine and coastal biodiversity conservation

There is an urgent need to protect oceans and safeguard livelihoods of millions of coastal and island communities from threats like plastic pollution, overfishing, ocean heating, acidification and anthropogenic marine noise, which has doubled in some areas of the oceans for the past 70 years. Seabed mining and marine geoengineering entail additional and incalculable risk to marine biodiversity, life in the water as on land, food security, planetary health and peace.

The [United Nations estimates](#) that as much as eighty percent of all global marine pollution originates from land-based activities. We call on you to find global solutions to the impacts of chemicals, including endocrine disrupting chemicals, as well as pesticides and radioactive pollution on sustainability and health of marine, coastal and island biodiversity including on wellbeing of peoples'.

Despite important support for the conservation of the ocean, the historical achievements of IPLCs sustainable use and conservation of their marine areas and territories of life have not been recognized as crucial models of governance to be replicated. A Rights Based ecosystem approach will help ensure the recognition and restitution of tenure and access rights, provide equal opportunities and



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adequate resources for coastal and island communities, including for women and youth. The recognition of the duty to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of IPLCs is an important minimum precautionary standard.

Sustainable fishing and biodiversity

Oceans and associated cultures are vital to the planetary life support systems. We encourage Parties to give special consideration to small-scale fisherwomen and fishermen from coastal and island communities in processes related to sustainable use, conservation and management of marine resources, including in marine spatial planning ensuring holders of all knowledge are part of transparent, inclusive and equitable partnership - the whole of society.

We also call for the inclusion of indicators that measure in this regard including, the Implementation of the FAOs Voluntary Guidelines for the sustainability of small scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication (approved during COFI-FAO 2014).

In ending, we encourage parties to strengthen synergies and systematically integrate and prioritize biodiversity and food security considerations in all ocean-related governance processes, including UNFCCC, BBNJ and International Seabed Authority (ISA), including other processes (UNEP, SAICM other MEAs).

Thank you, Chair.