The State of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity from the Perspective of the Convention Secretariat

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THE JAKARTA MANDATE AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

Since the inception of the Convention on Biological Diversity, marine and coastal biodiversity has been a subject of great concern to the Parties. At the second meeting of the Conference of the Parities, held in Jakarta in 1995, the Ministerial Statement on the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity referred to the new global consensus on the importance of marine and coastal biological diversity as the “Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal...”

* This article has been prepared to summarize key elements of in-depth review of the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity undertaken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its tenth meeting (October 2010), as well as guidance given by the Conference of the Parties in the same meeting on further enhancing the implementation of the programme of work, as contained in Decision X/29. As such, it should be viewed as a summary compilation of official CBD documents and decisions, available online: <http://www.cbd.int>.

1. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of appropriate tools and incentive measures, the transfer of technologies, goods and methodologies, and the active involvement of relevant stakeholders such as indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a supplementary treaty to the Convention, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 159 countries and the European Union have ratified the Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol are located in Montreal.
Biological Diversity.” At this meeting, the high-level representatives of the Parties, through the Ministerial Statement, reaffirmed the critical need for the Conference of the Parties to address the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity and urged Parties to initiate immediate action to implement their decisions on this issue.

In order to ensure concerted efforts at global, regional and national levels toward achieving the Convention’s objectives on marine and coastal biodiversity and implementing the Jakarta Mandate, the Conference of the Parties, at its seventh meeting, in 2004, adopted an elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity. The programme of work defines key operational objectives and priority activities within five main programme elements, including: implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management; marine and coastal living resources, including work plans on coral bleaching and physical degradation of coral reefs as well as biodiversity in deep-sea habitats; marine and coastal protected areas; mariculture; and invasive alien species. It also provides a general element to encompass the coordinating role of the Secretariat, the collaborative linkages required, and the effective use of experts, as well as an element on enabling activities.

As basic principles in the programme of work, the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach were highlighted as a foundation for implementation activities. Also indicated was that the primary level of implementation is at national and local levels, and the role of the Secretariat is to promote and facilitate this process. The full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in implementing the programme of work was also emphasized.

Implementation of the programme of work has been subsequently strengthened through Decisions VIII/21, VIII/22, VIII/24, and IX/20, and both the process of implementation and these decisions were subsequently reviewed at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The information available from the third and fourth national reports submitted, shows that the programme of work has provided an effective operational framework to facilitate national, regional and global efforts to reduce the loss of marine and coastal biological diversity. The programme of work is also found to be useful in engaging various partners and creating synergies with relevant international and regional agreements, action plans and processes.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME OF WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

This section summarizes the key findings of the background document prepared by the Convention Secretariat (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/2) for