



Ref.: SCBD/SSSF/AS/SBG/JA/CL/87807

28 January 2019

Dear Ms. Goettsche-Wanli,

Reference is made to the letter of Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, dated 19 December 2018, inviting the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to provide input to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea.

Appended herewith is the contribution of the CBD Secretariat to Part I of the report regarding information on the topic of focus of the twentieth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea, "Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development". This contribution describes various activities undertaken in the context of the CBD relating to the advancement of ocean and its role in supporting conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

David Cooper
Deputy Executive Secretary

Attachment

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Annex. Information on relevant activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Executive Summary

Decisions by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and different areas of work under the CBD address issues related to ocean science, particularly in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted by the COP in 2010.

The CBD Secretariat has undertaken activities to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). Through fourteen regional workshops convened since 2011, the EBSA process has described 321 EBSAs, which have been considered by COP and transmitted to the United Nations General Assembly and its relevant processes, as well as Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations. The EBSAs provide a scientific basis to support planning and management measures by States and competent intergovernmental organizations. The CBD Secretariat has developed guidance and training materials to support the description of EBSAs and the use of EBSA scientific information. There are ongoing discussions under the CBD on options to enhance scientific methodologies and approaches for the description of EBSAs.

Recent work under the CBD has also focused on strengthening the scientific basis to support area-based conservation. In this regard, an expert workshop was convened in 2018 to consolidate scientific and technical information, and provide scientific and technical advice, on other effective area-based conservation measures in marine and coastal areas in the context of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

There are also different capacity building activities under the CBD that contribute to bridging ocean science and policy. In particular, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, a capacity building platform coordinated by the CBD Secretariat, provides a framework for various capacity building activities (e.g., training of trainers, regional and national capacity building workshops) that include a focus on the use of scientific information and building technical skills to improve cross-sectoral conservation and sustainable.

There are also various areas of work under the CBD focused on facilitating information-sharing and dialogue to support the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. These include the SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, and the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI). The role of the CBD Executive Secretary as co-focal point of the Community of Ocean Action on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Management has focused on providing a platform for dialogue and information-sharing for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

The CBD Secretariat also produces scientific and technical syntheses of information on various ocean issues, such as marine spatial planning, marine debris, underwater noise, and integrated coastal management, with a view to supporting Parties and relevant organizations in their efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Furthermore, CBD online platforms, such as the Global Coral Portal and the Clearing-House Mechanism, also serve as tools to facilitate information-sharing and scientific collaboration. The CBD Secretariat also contributes scientific and technical input to various intergovernmental processes on issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity.

As the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will conclude in 2020, discussions under the CBD on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework have been underway. The preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework has recently been adopted by the fourteenth meeting of COP.

INTRODUCTION

1. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the marine and coastal biodiversity programme of work has provided a basis for decision-making by the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the Conference of the Parties (COP) with regards to the marine and coastal biodiversity, implementation of the CBD by Parties and relevant organizations and work by the CBD Secretariat to support CBD implementation and SBSTTA and COP decision-making. Ocean science plays a key role in supporting implementation of the CBD and decision-making by the CBD SBSTTA and COP.

2. This contribution includes a description of relevant work and developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) related to ocean science and its role in supporting conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. It focuses, in particular, on work and developments with regards to (i) the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, (ii) ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), (iii) strengthening the scientific basis to support area-based conservation in marine and coastal areas, (iv) building capacity to bridge ocean science and policy in support of cross-sectoral conservation and sustainable use, (v) facilitating scientific and technical information-sharing and dialogue, (vi) synthesizing and disseminating scientific information on various issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity and (vii) providing scientific and technical input to relevant international processes.

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

3. In 2010, the tenth meeting of COP adopted a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for 2011-2020 to provide an overarching framework on biodiversity for the entire United Nations system. The Strategic Plan includes twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets that focus on different aspects of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Although nearly all of the Aichi Targets are relevant to marine biodiversity, there are specific targets that are especially relevant. These include Aichi Target 6 on sustainable management of fish, invertebrate stock and aquatic plants, Target 10 on minimizing pressures on coral reefs, Target 11 on area-based conservation and Target 12 on threatened species. As well, Target 19 includes a specific focus on science, reading as follow: “By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.”

ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS (EBSAs)

4. EBSAs are special places in the ocean that support the healthy functioning of ocean and the many services that it provides. They are described through the application of scientific criteria adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the CBD in 2008. Parties have emphasized that the application of the EBSA criteria is a scientific and technical exercise, that areas found to meet the criteria may require enhanced conservation and management measures and that this can be achieved through a variety of means, including marine protected areas and impact assessments. Parties further emphasized that the identification of EBSAs and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. More information on the EBSA process and EBSA-related materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/>.

5. Pursuant to a request by COP in 2010, the Executive Secretary has convened a series of regional workshops to facilitate the description of EBSAs through the application of the EBSA scientific criteria, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations. To date, a total of 14 regional workshops have been organized leading to the description of 321 EBSAs around the world (both within and beyond national jurisdiction) that have been considered by the CBD COP. The COP also requests the

Executive Secretary to transmit the information on the EBSAs considered by COP to the United Nations General Assembly and its relevant processes, as well as Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations. Thus far, CBD regional EBSA workshops have been held in the following regions:

- a) Western South Pacific (Nadi, Fiji; 22 - 25 November 2011); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/RWEBSA-WSPAC-01>
- b) Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic (Recife, Brazil; 27 February - 1 March 2012); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/RWEBSA-WCAR-01>
- c) Southern Indian Ocean (Flic en Flac, Mauritius; 29 July - 2 August 2012); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSA-SIO-01>
- d) Eastern Tropical and Temperate Pacific (Galápagos Islands, Ecuador; 26 - 30 August 2012); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSA-ETTP-01>
- e) North Pacific (Moscow, Russian Federation; 24 - 28 February 2013); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSA-NP-01>
- f) South-Eastern Atlantic (Swakopmund, Namibia; 8 - 12 April 2013); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSA-SEA-01>
- g) Arctic (Helsinki, Finland; 3 - 7 March 2014); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSAWS-2014-01>
- h) North-West Atlantic (Montreal, Canada; 23 - 27 March 2014); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSAWS-2014-02>
- i) Mediterranean (Málaga, Spain; 6 - 10 April 2014); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSAWS-2014-03>
- j) North-East Indian Ocean (Colombo, Sri Lanka; 21 - 26 March 2015); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSAWS-2015-01>
- k) North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas (Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 18 - 24 April 2015); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSAWS-2015-02>
- l) Seas of East Asia (Xiamen, China; 12 - 17 December 2015); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSAWS-2015-03>
- m) Black Sea and Caspian Sea (Baku, Azerbaijan; 23 - 28 April 2017); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSAWS-2017-01>
- n) Baltic Sea (Helsinki, Finland; 18 - 23 February 2018); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSAWS-2018-01>

6. Pursuant to requests by COP, there is ongoing work and discussions under the CBD regarding enhancing scientific methodologies and approaches for the description of EBSAs. In decision XIII/12, the COP welcomed a set of voluntary practical options for further enhancing scientific methodologies and approaches of the scientific and technical exercises, including collaborative arrangements, for the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria. There are also ongoing discussions under the CBD regarding modalities for modifying the description of EBSAs, for describing new areas, and for strengthening the scientific credibility and transparency of the EBSA process.

7. Pursuant to a request by COP in decision X/29, the Secretariat prepared, in 2012, a training manual which can be used to support and inform the identification and description of EBSAs. This manual provides background on the CBD EBSA criteria, as well as practical guidance on how to identify areas

based on each individual EBSA criterion and on multiple EBSA criteria. This training manual is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/information/sbstta-16-inf-09-en.pdf>.

8. COP has noted that the identification of EBSAs should rely on the best available scientific and technical information and, as appropriate, integrate the traditional scientific, technical, and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities. In this vein, and in response to a request by COP in decision X/29, the Secretariat prepared, in 2012, a study to identify specific elements for integrating the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, and social and cultural criteria and other aspects for the application of scientific criteria for the identification of EBSAs. The study is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/information/sbstta-16-inf-10-en.pdf>.

9. In decision XI/17, the COP invited Parties, other Governments, competent intergovernmental organizations, and relevant indigenous and local communities to consider the use of the above-noted guidance on integration of traditional knowledge, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, where applicable, in the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs and for the development of conservation and management measures. In the same decision, COP also requested the Executive Secretary to develop training materials on the use of traditional knowledge into the description and identification of EBSAs. As a result, the Training Manual on the Incorporation of Traditional Knowledge into the Description and Identification of EBSAs was prepared by the Secretariat in 2016, building on previous work under the CBD. The training manual is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-21-en.pdf>.

STRENGTHENING THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR AREA-BASED CONSERVATION IN MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS

10. Pursuant to decision XIII/2, the Secretariat convened an expert workshop on marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in marine and coastal areas, in Montreal, Canada, from 6 to 9 February 2018. It was held in conjunction with the Technical Expert Workshop on Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/PAEM2018-01>), with joint sessions on relevant topics. The workshop aimed to: a) to review national experiences and lessons learned on the development, and effective and equitable management, of ecologically representative and well-connected systems of MPAs and OECMs, and their integration into the wider landscapes and seascapes; b) to consolidate scientific and technical information on various approaches for, and their effectiveness in, assessing the contribution to the achievement of Target 11 on MPAs and OECMs as well as their integration into the wider landscapes and seascapes; and c) to provide scientific and technical advice on definition, management approaches and identification of OECMs in marine and coastal areas and their role in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

11. In support of the expert workshop mentioned above, background documents were prepared on a) cross-cutting issues and key messages related to the achievement of Target 11 through the use of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, b) OECMs (in non-fisheries marine sectors), and c) other effective area-based conservation measures used in marine fisheries. The workshop report, background documents and other workshop materials are available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/MCB-EM-2018-01>.

12. In decision XIV/8, COP welcomed the following definition of OECMs: “*other effective area-based conservation measure*” means “*a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ*

conservation of biodiversity,¹ with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values”, as well as a set of criteria for their identification and further considerations related to OECMs. COP also encouraged Parties and invited other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities to apply the voluntary guidance contained in annexes I and II of the decision, on integration and mainstreaming, and governance and equity of protected areas and OECMs, and to take into account the considerations in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in marine and coastal areas, as contained in the annex IV of the decision. Decision XIV/8 is available online at: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2018/cop-14/documents>.

BUILDING CAPACITY TO BRIDGE OCEAN SCIENCE AND POLICY IN SUPPORT OF CROSS-SECTORAL CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE

13. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) is a global capacity building platform coordinated by the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with a wide range of governments and organizations around the world. It was established on the margins of COP 10 in 2010, in recognition of the urgent need to scale up capacity building support to facilitate the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas. It has evolved as a global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals in marine and coastal areas. Various capacity building activities are carried out in the framework of SOI that include a focus on building capacity to bridge ocean science and policy in support of cross-sectoral conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. More information on SOI is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/soi/>.

14. SOI national capacity building workshops facilitate dialogue among various stakeholders, including government ministries, international and regional organizations, scientific communities, and civil society, and coordination related to marine biodiversity to address capacity needs of developing countries to achieve national priorities as well as global goals under the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. While the focus of these workshops differ depending on the needs of the country, they generally aim to gather stakeholders from different sectors to identify approaches and opportunities to enhance cross-sectoral planning and management of marine and coastal areas, with a focus on marine spatial planning, using the best available scientific information. To date, the following national workshops have been convened:

- a) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) National Capacity Development Workshop for Samoa (Apia, Samoa; 28-30 September 2015); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2015-05>
- b) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) National Capacity Development Workshop for Namibia (Swakopmund, Namibia; 13-16 October 2015); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2015-03>
- c) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) National Capacity Development Workshop for Timor-Leste (Dili, Timor-Leste; 6-8 September 2016); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2016-04>
- d) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) National Capacity Development Workshop for Vanuatu (Port Vila, Vanuatu; 23-25 November 2016); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2016-05>
- e) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) National Capacity Building Workshop for Cameroon (Yaounde, Cameroon; 17-19 January 2018); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2018-01>

¹ As defined by Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in line with the provisions of the Convention.

15. SOI regional capacity building workshops gather experts and practitioners in conservation and fisheries management from governments and global and regional organizations to facilitate sharing of scientific information and exchange of experiences on the application of different types of planning and management tools and to identify key opportunities and approaches at the regional and national scale to enhance cross-sectoral conservation and sustainable use. To date, the following regional workshops have been convened:

- a) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity Building Workshop for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal; 4-8 February 2013); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/CBWSOI-WAFR-01>
- b) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity Building Workshop for East, South and South-East Asia (Guangzhou, China; 9-13 December 2013); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/CBWSOI-SEASI-01>
- c) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity Building Workshop for South America (Lima, Peru; 23-27 February 2015); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/MCBWS-2015-01>
- d) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity Development Workshop for East Africa (Nosy Be, Madagascar; 18-22 January 2016); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2016-01>
- e) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) / Pacific Ocean Alliance Regional Workshop for the Pacific Islands (Apia, Samoa; 31 October - 4 November 2016); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2016-03>
- f) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity Building Workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America (San José, Costa Rica; 20-24 February 2017); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2017-01>
- g) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Subregional Capacity Building Workshop for the Coral Triangle (Jakarta, Indonesia; 31 July - 3 August); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-WS-2018-02>
- h) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity Building Workshop for Northern Africa and the Mediterranean (Tangier, Morocco; 15-19 October 2018); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-WS-2018-03>

16. SOI Training of Trainers workshops aim to strengthen national scientific, technical and managerial capacity on: (a) the application of the ecosystem approach and area-based management tools, such as integrated marine and coastal area management and marine spatial planning; (b) enhancing multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral dialogue and coordination to support planning and management; and (c) the development and implementation of capacity development activities at the national and subnational level. To date, the following training of trainers workshops have been convened:

- a) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Training of Trainers Workshop (Yeosu, Republic of Korea; 11-15 September 2015); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2015-02>
- b) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Training of Trainers Workshop (Yeosu, Republic of Korea; 18-22 July 2016); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2016-02>
- c) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Training of Trainers Workshop (Seocheon, Republic of Korea; 25-29 September 2017); Workshop report and other materials available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIWS-2017-02>

FACILITATING DIALOGUE

17. There are various areas of work under the CBD focused on facilitating scientific and technical dialogue, with a view to supporting the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

18. A key focus of various activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) (as described in the previous section) is on sharing of experiences and information on scientific and technical issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. In addition to those activities discussed in the previous section, facilitating scientific and technical information-sharing and dialogue is also a central aim of the SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals. In September 2016, the Secretariat, in collaboration with United Nations Environment and FAO, and with the financial support of the Government of Japan, the Republic of Korea and the European Union, convened the first meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs, hosted by the Government of Republic of Korea. This meeting, the first of its kind at the global level, resulted in the ‘Seoul Outcome’, which outlines various ways and means to enhance cooperation and coordination among regional organizations to facilitate the achievement of global targets on biodiversity and fisheries, including through scientific collaboration. The results of the first meeting were recognized by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-first session, in 2016, in its resolution 71/257 on oceans and the law of the sea. The details of this meeting, including the Seoul Outcome, can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOIOM-2016-01>. Building the successful outcome of the first meeting, the SOI Global Dialogue became a regular forum, and its second meeting was convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 10 to 13 April 2018 in collaboration with UN Environment, FAO and many other international and regional partners, and with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Government of Japan, the Government of Sweden and the European Union.. The meeting resulted in ‘Seoul Outcome Plus 2’, identified concrete ways and means to further enhance cross-sectoral cooperation at the regional scale, in particular between RSOs and RFBs, together with various other regional initiatives and includes concrete roadmaps to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration at the regional scale. The meeting outcome is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-OM-2018-01>. Coverage of the meeting is available at: <http://enb.iisd.org/oceans/soi2/>.

19. In 2017, the Executive Secretary of the CBD and Maria Damanaki of The Nature Conservancy were designated as focal points for the Community of Ocean Action on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Management, a global platform for dialogue and information-sharing for various elements of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 implementation. At the 2017 United Nations Ocean Conference, close to 1400 voluntary commitments for concrete action to advance implementation of SDG 14 were made by governments, the United Nations system, civil society organizations, academia, the scientific community and the private sector. Nine thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action were launched to follow-up on the implementation of these voluntary commitments, to catalyze and generate new voluntary commitments and to facilitate collaboration and networking among different actors in support of SDG 14. Activities of the Community include webinars among Community members and face-to-face dialogues and discussions on experiences and lessons learned from implementation of the voluntary commitments and opportunities to scale-up implementation. More information on the Communities of Ocean Action can be found at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/coa/MarineCoastal>.

20. The CBD Secretariat coordinates the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, a network of national-level technical and scientific agencies. The Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP) contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets through capacity building and the promotion and offer of information, tools and services. Members of the Consortium (i) are scientifically/technically competent to address the Aichi Targets, (ii) have a proven track record of contributing to the CBD and with other institutions and Parties at regional, sub-regional or global levels and (iii) are supported by and providing technical support to their

respective national governments. More information on the Consortium, including a complete list of its member institutions, can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/csp/>.

21. The CBD Secretariat also coordinates the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI), a programme created in 2014 that facilitates technical and scientific cooperation among Parties to the Convention and to its Protocols. BBI connects Parties who require assistance to address their biodiversity related challenges with Parties or institutions that are in a position to respond to those needs through mutual partnerships, the deployment of existing services and the incubation of new initiatives. As such, BBI catalyzes transfer, exchange and development of scientific information, tools, and skills that will enhance scientific capacities of Parties at the global level for effective conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, including marine and coastal biodiversity. More details can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/>.

SYNTHESIZNG SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON VARIOUS ISSUES RELATED TO MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

22. The CBD Secretariat, through various publications and platforms, synthesizes and disseminates scientific and technical information on various aspects of conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. Some key examples are described below.

23. The CBD Secretariat has produced the following technical series reports on marine debris:

- a) CBD Technical Series No. 67 (2012)—*Impacts of Marine Debris on Biodiversity: Current Status and Potential Solutions*, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-67-en.pdf>;
- b) CBD Technical Series No. 83 (2016)—*Marine Debris: Understanding, Preventing and Mitigating the Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity*, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-83-en.pdf>;

24. On the issue of anthropogenic underwater noise, the CBD Secretariat has produced the following documents:

- a) Scientific synthesis on the impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/12), available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/information/sbstta-16-inf-12-en.pdf>
- b) Compilation of submissions and further information on underwater noise mitigation measures (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/10), which also contains relevant scientific and research activities conducted by Parties, other Governments and competent organizations, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-10-en.pdf>
- c) Compilation of submissions on experiences in the use of measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/13), which also contains relevant scientific and research activities conducted by Parties, other Governments and competent organizations, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/d9fa/f6f8/ef2af935fae32ba619c16252/sbstta-22-inf-13-en.pdf>

25. The CBD Secretariat has published various technical series reports on different tools and approaches for conservation and sustainable use, including on the use of science to support these tools. Recent relevant examples include CBD Technical Series No. 75 (2014)—*Updated Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity* (available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-75-en.pdf>.) and CBD Technical Series No. 76 (2015)—*Integrated Coastal Management for the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Practical guidance for implementation based on experience and lessons learned from coastal and ocean government in the Seas of East Asia* (available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-76-en.pdf>).

26. The CBD Secretariat publishes booklets that synthesize the significant amount of scientific information on EBSAs described in various regions into engaging and easily understandable text, together with photos from various EBSAs, to raise awareness of EBSAs and inform a broader audience of the scientific and technical information on EBSAs in different regions. Thus far, the Secretariat has produced EBSA booklets for the following regions:

- a) Western South Pacific, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/marine/ebsa/booklet-01-wsp-en.pdf>
- b) Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/marine/ebsa/booklet-02-wcar-en.pdf>
- c) Southern Indian Ocean, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/marine/ebsa/booklet-03-sio-en.pdf>
- d) North Pacific, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/marine/ebsa/booklet-04-np-en.pdf>.

27. In November 2018, the CBD Secretariat launched the Global Coral Portal (<https://www.cbd.int/coral-reefs/>) to facilitate scientific and technical collaboration and information-sharing on sustainable management of coral reefs and related ecosystems. This Portal provides a platform to showcase the efforts and activities of Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations for improved conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems, facilitate access to resources and materials to support the efforts of Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to improve management of coral reefs, illustrate the linkages between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals with respect to coral reefs and provide links to various global and regional organizations/initiatives working on coral reef research and management.

28. Pursuant to Article 18.3 of the Convention, the CBD Secretariat operates and maintains the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of CBD, which aims to contribute to the implementation of the Convention through effective information services and other means to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, knowledge sharing and information exchange, and to establish a fully operational network of Parties and partners. The Clearing-House Mechanism consists of the CBD website, acting as the central node, a network of national Clearing-House Mechanisms and various partner institutions. More information on CHM can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/chm/>.

29. The CBD Secretariat publishes the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO), a periodic report that summarizes the latest scientific data on the status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions relevant to the further implementation of the Convention. It also provides an analysis of the steps being taken by the global community to ensure that biodiversity is conserved and used sustainably, and that benefits arising from the use of genetic resources are shared equitably. The forthcoming 5th version of the Global Biodiversity Outlook will focus on assessing the level of achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. All Global Biodiversity Outlooks can be found online at: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/>.

PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INPUT TO RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES

30. The CBD Secretariat contributes scientific and technical input to various intergovernmental processes on issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity, on the basis of decisions of the CBD COP and relevant scientific and technical work coordinated by the Secretariat. Such processes include, for example, the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the International Seabed Authority and discussions and deliberations by various regional fishery bodies and regional seas conventions and action plans.

POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

31. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will conclude in 2020. Therefore, discussions have been underway under the CBD on the development of this post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In light of the importance of ocean science for conservation and sustainable use, this process provides an important opportunity to instill ocean science in the next global framework for biodiversity. The preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework has been adopted by the fourteenth meeting of COP in decision XIX/34 (available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-34-en.pdf>). More information on the post-2020 biodiversity framework can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/post2020/>