




## Current Activities of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to Marine Genetic Resources





*"Deep Sea Food Chain", Mural Painting by Bruce Mahalski, New Zealand*

*8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (25-29 July 2007)*



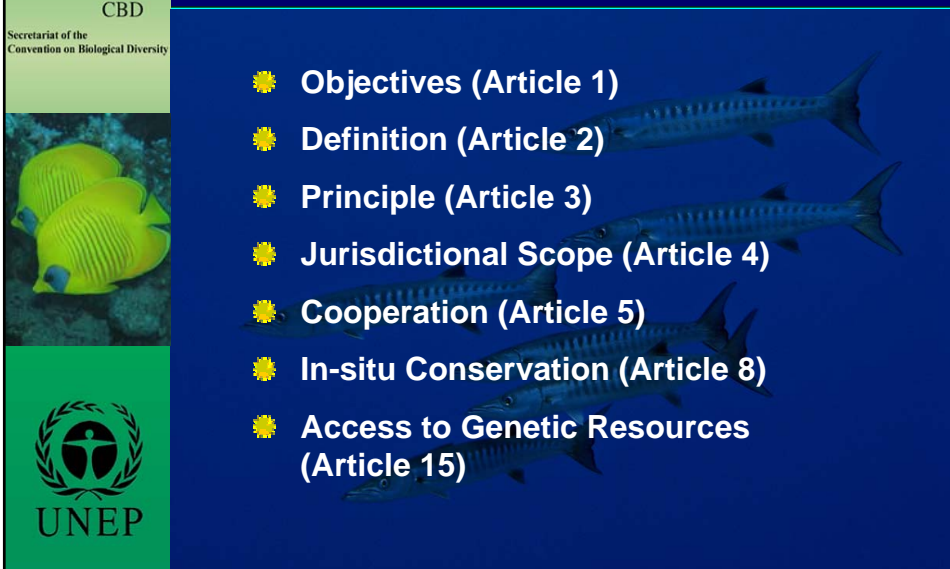
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## CBD and Marine Genetic Resources



- ☀ **Objectives (Article 1)**
- ☀ **Definition (Article 2)**
- ☀ **Principle (Article 3)**
- ☀ **Jurisdictional Scope (Article 4)**
- ☀ **Cooperation (Article 5)**
- ☀ **In-situ Conservation (Article 8)**
- ☀ **Access to Genetic Resources (Article 15)**





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### Conservation and Sustainable Use of Deep Seabed Genetic Resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (COP decision VIII/21, 24)

**Parties noted:**

- ☀ **Deep seabed ecosystems**
  - ✓ Biodiversity value & Urgent need for scientific research and cooperation
- ☀ **UNCLOS regulates activities in the marine areas beyond national jurisdiction**
- ☀ **Preliminary range of options**
  - ✓ codes of conduct, permits, EIA, marine protected areas, prohibition of destructive practices, etc.
- ☀ **CBD has a key role in supporting the work of UNGA**
  - ✓ provision of scientific and technical information and advice
  - ✓ application of ecosystem and precautionary approach
  - ✓ delivering the 2010 target



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### Conservation and Sustainable Use of Deep Seabed Genetic Resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (COP decision VIII/21)

**Parties and other States were recommended to:**

- ☀ **Take measures to control threats**
- ☀ **Cooperate within the relevant int'l/regional organizations**
- ☀ **Enhance scientific research**
- ☀ **Build capacity, including taxonomic capacity**
- ☀ **Promote scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer**
- ☀ **Exchange information**



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## Conservation and Sustainable Use of Deep Seabed Genetic Resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (COP decision VIII/21, 24)

CBD Executive Secretary was requested to:

- Compile and disseminate information on research activities
- In collaboration with UNDOALOS, further analyse and explore options for preventing and mitigating the impacts
- Synthesize scientific studies on priority areas for biodiversity conservation
- Develop further scientific and ecological criteria for the identification of marine areas in need of protection, and biogeographical classification systems
- Collaborate in the further development of spatial databases



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## Compilation, Synthesis and Dissemination of Information

- Synthesis of the best available scientific studies on priority areas for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction
  - ✓ Global distribution, status and trends, threats, and ecological functioning of the key ecosystems such as seamounts, cold-water corals, and hydrothermal vents
  - ✓ Being finalized for peer-review
- Website on preliminary information compilation about research activities related to deep seabed genetic resources  
<http://www.cbd.int/programmes/areas/marine/research.shtml>



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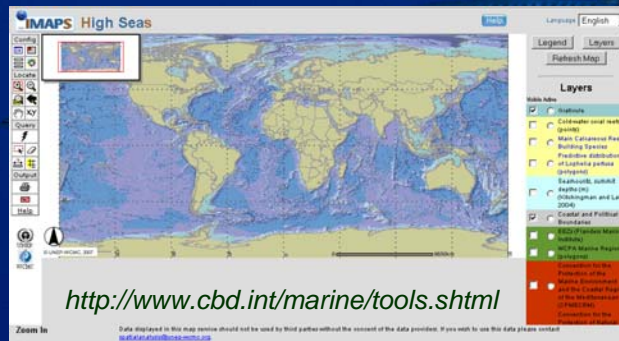


## Interactive Map of High Seas Management Regimes including Marine Protected Areas and key habitat distribution

*Developed in collaboration between SCBD and UNEP-WCMC*

All high seas management regimes were included for mapping if they were spatially explicit

- ✓ Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), Closures within RFMOs, Regional Seas Conventions, Marine mammal sanctuaries



## Options for prevention and mitigation of threats

In collaboration with UNDOALOS, an information document is being prepared on the options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities to selected seabed habitats

- ✓ Status of seabed habitats
- ✓ Their value and importance
- ✓ Existing and potential threats
- ✓ Review of previous analysis of options for preventing and mitigating threats to deep seabed habitats
- ✓ Key findings of further analysis and recommendations for options

### ***Building upon previous collaborative study between CBD-UNDOALOS (2003)***

Conservation and sustainable use of deep seabed genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction: study of the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea



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## Ecological Criteria and Biogeographical Classification Systems for Marine Areas in need of Protection

- ⊙ Expert workshop on 2-4 Oct. Azores, Portugal, with financial support from the Government of Portugal
  - ⊙ Refine and develop a consolidated set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection
  - ⊙ Compile biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems
  - ⊙ Compile a consolidated set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas
- ⊙ List of participants finalized and invitations being sent



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## Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing

**3<sup>rd</sup> objective of the Convention:  
Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources**

- ⊙ WSSD in 2002 called for action to negotiate an international regime on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources
- ⊙ COP-VII mandated the Working Group on ABS to negotiate an international regime on ABS (2004)
- ⊙ COP-VIII instructed to complete its work by 2010
- ⊙ Next meetings of WG-ABS in October 2007 and January 2008



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## Summary and Next Steps

- CBD continues to support UNGA by providing scientific and, as appropriate, technical information, as demonstrated by on-going studies and other collaborative efforts
- Key findings and recommendations of on-going studies will be reviewed and considered by the CBD SBSTTA-13 (Feb 2008)
- Current efforts will provide inputs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ad-hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group Meeting to study issues relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction



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*Shukran!*

*Xie xie!*

*Thank you!*

*Merci!*

*Spasibo!*

*Gracias!*

