POSITION PAPER

# IUCN's position on selected thematic issues

**Convention on Biological Diversity**
**Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14)**
**Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November, 2018**

## Summary of Key Messages

**Sustainable wildlife management (Agenda item 20)**

- ✓ IUCN calls on Parties to actively engage indigenous peoples and local communities and other stakeholders, where appropriate and relevant, in developing integrated policy and management frameworks for wild meat use in both developed and developing regions.

**Biodiversity and climate change (Agenda item 21)**

- ✓ IUCN strongly supports the adoption, and urges Parties to make use of the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- ✓ IUCN reemphasizes the importance of integrating climate change concerns into NBSAPs and of integrating biodiversity considerations, including and ecosystem-based approaches, in national policies on climate change, including Nationally Determined Contributions.

**Spatial planning, protected areas and other area-based conservation measures (Agenda item 24)**

- ✓ IUCN commends and fully supports the adoption by Parties of the draft COP decision, including the definition of "Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)" and associated voluntary guidance. IUCN stands ready to continue supporting Parties in advancing implementation of Aichi Target 11.
- ✓ IUCN acknowledges the valuable contributions that are being made by regional partnerships on protected areas.
- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties to integrate plans for enhanced protection and recognition of protected and conserved areas into NBSAPs, harmonised with and complementing sectoral strategies and plans.
- ✓ For the post-2020 period, IUCN welcomes the current discussion to increase considerably the coverage of protected and conserved areas by 2050.

**Marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 25)**

- ✓ IUCN welcomes the draft COP decision, in particular the set of options for modifying the description of EBSAs, for describing new areas, and for strengthening the scientific credibility and transparency of the process.
- ✓ Regarding *Other matters related to marine and coastal biodiversity*, IUCN invites Parties to consider a number of IUCN's publications which constitute important references on issues related to marine debris and deep seabed mining, among others.


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## Sustainable wildlife management (Agenda item 20)

IUCN welcomes the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector presented in the Annex of the draft COP Decision[1] and encourages Parties to adopt it.

**Moreover, IUCN calls on Parties to actively engage indigenous peoples and local communities and other stakeholders, where appropriate and relevant, in developing integrated policy and management frameworks for wild meat use in both developed and developing regions.**

- ✓ **IUCN recommends the following amendments to the draft COP decision**:

In the preamble:
*Recognizing* the right to customary…add '**and other stakeholders where appropriate and relevant**' after 'local communities';

*Also recognizing* the significant role ... add '**and other stakeholders where appropriate and relevant,**' after 'local communities'

*Building* on… by adding at the end of the sentence the following: '**COP 7 Decision VII/12 on Sustainable Use (Article 10), COP 10 Decision X/32 on Sustainable use of biodiversity, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (CBD Guidelines)**'

In paragraph 3, add '**and the Addis Ababa Principles**' after the words Sustainable Development Goals.

In paragraph 9 (b) add '**wildlife production**' to read: "…to improving information on sustainable wildlife use, including **wildlife production**, wild meat hunting…"

## Biodiversity and climate change (Agenda item 21)

**IUCN strongly supports the adoption, and urges Parties to make use of the voluntary guidelines** for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

IUCN concurs with the need of identifying vulnerable regions and components of biodiversity to the impacts of climate change and **encourages Parties, other Governments and organisations to use integrated vulnerability assessment tools that take into account socio-economic considerations while evaluating climate vulnerability of species, ecosystems, and communities**.

IUCN highlights the importance of integrating climate change concerns into NBSAPs and of integrating biodiversity considerations, including and ecosystem-based approaches, in national policies on climate change, including Nationally Determined Contributions.

IUCN acknowledges the invitation to the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) referred to in paragraph 9 of the draft decision, and looks forward to support Parties to promote ecosystem-based approaches to climate change.

## Spatial planning, protected areas and other area-based conservation measures (Agenda item 24)

**IUCN commends and fully supports the adoption by Parties of the draft COP decision, including the definition of "Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)" and associated voluntary guidance.**

As requested by Decision XIII/2, IUCN has worked consistently with Parties, other governments and the Secretariat to the Convention to undertake a review of experiences, and to develop voluntary guidance on:

(a) Protected areas and OECMs;

(b) Measures to enhance integration of protected areas and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes;

(c) Mainstreaming of protected areas and OECMs across sectors;

(d) Effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity, as a basis for accelerating progress towards the achievement of Aichi Target 11.

IUCN applauds the significant progress made by Parties towards Aichi Target 11, noting that 14.9% of terrestrial and inland waters, and 7.27%[2] of marine and coastal areas are now protected at the global level, and prospects are good for achieving the coverage element of this Target by 2020.

[1] As contained in SBSTTA/REC/XXI/2

[2] https://www.protectedplanet.net/

**IUCN reiterates that further progress on the other elements of the Target is essential and that the voluntary guidance contained in Annexes I - IV of the draft COP Decision[3] will assist Parties to make progress.**

In particular, IUCN commends the guidance resulting from the Technical Expert Workshop on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures for Achieving Aichi Target 11, and commits to compiling detailed guidance, including relevant case studies to enhance its interpretation and its implementation. We **note that recognition of OECMs will enhance ecological representation and protection of important biodiversity areas, and will promote more effective and equitable management of sites, thereby further contributing toe sustainable conservation of biodiversity**.

✓ **IUCN advises Parties that:**

(i) Areas that effectively deliver *in situ* biodiversity conservation outcomes, must also contribute to the overall global goal of halting biodiversity loss, and therefore areas of industrial forestry, fishing and agriculture should not count as OECMs under Aichi Target 11, but should rather be reported as contributions towards Aichi Targets, 5, 6 or 7.

(ii) OECMs and protected areas should be distinguished from other intact natural areas not subject to any deliberate form of conservation management but that nevertheless currently harbour intact biodiversity, e.g. due to their remoteness or presence of conflict conditions. These areas are neither considered to be OECMs nor protected areas, as such sites have little long-term security if conditions change, or are eventually subject to environmentally damaging activities.

In addition, IUCN continues to support Parties and other organisations to:

(i) Identify **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**, to enhance the representation of areas of particular importance; acknowledging that in the marine realm, use of KBAs is still limited by the lack of data, which should be improved on;

(ii) undertake and report **Management Effectiveness Assessments to UNEP-WCMC** for inclusion in the World Database on Protected Areas, to enable better monitoring of this element of the Target;

(iii) Apply the **IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard** on a voluntary basis to deliver and report progress towards *all qualitative aspects* of Aichi Target 11. The IUCN Green List Standard provides a global benchmark to improve planning and design, management effectiveness, and equitable governance, as well as conservation and social outcomes in protected and conserved areas. It is currently being applied in at least 35 countries worldwide.

(iv) **Document and communicate the application of successful approaches through PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet**[4], which enables peer review and exchange, capacity development and knowledge generation that supports and enhanced implementation of the many scientific, technical and technological competences that are essential for Target achievement; and

(v) Develop **technical guidance on connectivity**[5] **between sites**, to maintain and restore ecological and evolutionary processes, and help to reduce extinction risk.

IUCN notes that local, regional and global collaboration is essential for accelerating progress towards the attainment of Target 11. In this regard, **IUCN acknowledges the valuable contributions that are being made by regional partnerships on protected areas, including the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP)[6] and Redparques - the Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks**, and encourages the formation and support of these networks.

**IUCN encourages Parties to integrate plans for enhanced protection and recognition of protected and conserved areas into NBSAPs, harmonised with, and complementing sectoral strategies and plans, noting the potential synergies and trade-offs required**. In so doing, the potential of systems of protected and conserved areas to contribute towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals will be markedly improved.

Finally, **in relation to the site-based conservation targets post-2020, IUCN**

[3] SBSTTA/REC/XXII/5

[4] https://panorama.solutions/en
[5] http://conservationcorridor.org/
[6] http://www.asiaprotectedareaspartnership.org

**welcomes the current discussion to increase considerably the coverage of protected and conserved areas by 2050, through inter alia, establishing new protected and conserved areas in under-represented ecosystems or to address the conservation of priority species; recognising and supporting OECMs; and appropriately recognising, supporting and protecting territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities** .

## Marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 25)

***Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)***

**IUCN welcomes the draft COP decision, in particular the set of options for modifying the description of EBSAs, for describing new areas, and for strengthening the scientific credibility and transparency of the process**.

Nonetheless, IUCN would like to highlight that there is a need for a mechanism to keep the EBSA portfolio up to date, drawing from the identification of marine Key Biodiversity Areas and other data, in order to maintain its utility as well as a need to support and encourage the provision of new information and open access to such data and information.

**IUCN would accordingly recommend that the COP:**

- ✓ ***Calls on*** **Parties to agree to the organization of a 'second round' of regional workshops (at an interval that recognizes new data generation) in order to keep the EBSA repository up to date;**

- ✓ ***Asks*** **the Executive Secretary to invite sectoral management organizations to more actively contribute to the EBSA processes, including by providing access to environmental and biodiversity-relevant data;**

- ✓ ***Considers*** **maintaining the CBD EBSA expert group or a similar process, with more clearly defined Terms of Reference and operating procedures, and a high transparency in the selection of members and conduct of their deliberations and actions; and**

- ✓ ***Encourages*** **and** ***recognizes*** **national and sub-regional EBSA processes, while the CBD assures their quality.**

IUCN further recommends that notifications regarding the modification of EBSAs be extended to other interested intergovernmental organizations, global and regional conservation bodies that might have relevant information regarding any EBSA being considered for a change in description, boundaries, removal or addition.

- ✓ **IUCN suggests modifying paragraph 7 in Annex II accordingly**:

7. Parties and other Governments, as well as competent **and interested** intergovernmental organizations, **global and regional conservation bodies**, should be informed of the submission of any proposals for the modification of EBSA descriptions through a CBD notification and the EBSA website (www.cbd.int/ebsa).

- ✓ With regard to strengthening the scientific credibility of the EBSA process, **IUCN recommends amending paragraph 14 of Annex II to add the following:**

**a) Establish a process for broad nomination of members to the Informal Advisory Group, a method for systematic rotation of its membership, and processes for ensuring an absence of conflict of interest of members, relative to their research funding**.

***Other matters related to marine and coastal biodiversity***

**IUCN invites Parties to consider IUCN's publications** on Plastic debris[7], Primary microplastics[8], Strategies for managing environmental risk[9], Mediterranean submarine canyons[10], Deep seabed mining[11] and State of

[7] Thevenon, F., Carroll C., Sousa J. (editors), 2014. *Plastic Debris in the Ocean: The Characterization of Marine Plastics and their Environmental Impacts, Situation Analysis Report*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 52 pp. https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/44966

[8] Boucher, J. and Friot D. (2017). *Primary Microplastics in the Oceans: A Global Evaluation of Sources*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 43pp. https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46622

[9] Douglas P. Nowacek, Brandon L. Southall (2016). *Effective planning strategies for managing environmental risk associated with geophysical and other imaging surveys*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 42pp. https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46291

[10] Würtz M. (ed.) (2012). *Mediterranean Submarine Canyons: Ecology and Governance*. Gland, Switzerland and Málaga, Spain: IUCN. 216 pages. https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/10173

[11] Cuyvers, L., Berry, W., Gjerde, K., Thiele, T. and Wilhem, C. (2018). *Deep seabed mining: a rising environmental challenge*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and Gallifrey Foundation. x + 74pp.

knowledge on seamounts and hydrothermal vents[12] as useful tools in their efforts to minimize and mitigate the impact of marine debris, address deep seabed mining and protect biodiversity in cold-water areas.

https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47761

[12] Zucchi, S., Ternon, J.-F., Demarcq, H., Ménard, F., Guduff, S. and Spadone, A. (2018). *Oasis for marine life. State of knowledge on seamounts and hydrothermal vents*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, vi + 50pp. https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47821