

Background Note in the form of Questions and answers

“Global marine protected area target of 10% to be achieved by 2020”

1. What is the context and purpose of this study undertaken by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity?

Answer:

- The high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development is being held at the UN, 5-9 June 2017.
- One of the Targets of SDG 14- calls for, conserving at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas by 2020(14.5). This target flows from the marine component of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 adopted in 2010 as part of the Convention’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (See Question 2).
- The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity undertook a study in collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of UN Environment, World Commission on Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the United Nations Development Programme to show the present status of marine protected areas and to ascertain the feasibility of reaching it by 2020.

2. What are the 10% targets for marine protected areas?

Answer:

- Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 is: “By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 is one of the twenty Aichi biodiversity Targets contained in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in October 2010. The strategic plan was subsequently endorsed by the other biodiversity related conventions and supported by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Target 14.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals is:” By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information”
- The Sustainable Development Goals are a key part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

3. What kind of data is used in the study?

Answer:

- For assessing the current status of marine protected area coverage global statistics from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), June 2017. Cambridge, UK: UNEP- WCMC was used
- For assessing the National Commitments the following data are used:
 - ✓ **National priority actions** identified by Parties to the Convention through a series of regional capacity-building workshops carried out in 2015 and 2016;
 - ✓ **Projects from the fifth and sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)**: Only those projects with a status of 'project approved' or 'concept approved' were considered. GEF projects which are already included in Parties national priority actions are not counted again;
 - ✓ **Voluntary commitments for The Ocean Conference** are initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Parties to the Convention that aim to contribute to the implementation of Target 14.5 of SDG 14 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>
 - ✓ Other **large marine protected areas** (>100,000 km²) from recently announced national commitments.
 - ✓ The **Micronesia Challenge** which is a commitment by five Micronesian territories to effectively conserve at least 30% of their near-shore marine resources Micronesia by 2020, and the **Caribbean Challenge Initiative**, involving nine Caribbean governments, aims to effectively conserve and manage at least 20 percent of the marine and coastal environment by 2020
 - ✓ **Targets from the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** of 36 Parties are included, as is the additional area that will need to be added to meet the target, removing MPAs being added from the other sources above to avoid double counting. Targets submitted by Parties with a deadline later than 2020, or those that did not differentiate terrestrial and marine targets are not included.

The Master Data file showing the current status of Marine Protected Areas (June 2017 release of WDPA) and net commitment of each country, after removing redundancy and double counting is available at <https://www.cbd.int/pa/UN-Ocean-Conference/>. It is requested that any additional information, is brought to the attention of the Secretariat of the Convention: sarat.gidda@cbd.int . While the Secretariat has carefully reviewed the data, any errors that may be identified should also be brought to the attention of the Secretariat.

4. What are the main findings of this study?

Answer:

- The Convention triggered almost twenty-fold increase in the marine conservation from 0.29% in 1993 to 5.7% in June 2017 in global ocean, leaving a gap of 4.3% to reach the global target of 10% by 2020 as agreed in SDG target 14.5. In case of national waters, the increase is also almost twenty-fold, from 0.73% in 1993 to 14.4% in 2017.

- Implementation of the Strategic Plan has doubled the growth in marine conservation as area under marine protected areas has increased from 2.4% in 2010 to 5.7% in global ocean, and in national waters from 5.9% to 14.4%.
- Parties to the Convention have committed to add a further 4.4%; this would slightly surpass the 10 % global ocean conservation Target by 2020.
- Of the 4.4% increase, 3.45% comes from additions in national waters, while 0.92% is from additions in areas beyond national jurisdiction (all in Antarctica).
- There are still opportunities to further improve these commitments – as National Targets in the revised NBSAPs, of 8 countries did not differentiate targets for marine/terrestrial areas, 17 countries provide end dates later than 2020 and so have not been included; an additional 49 countries had NBSAPs with no specific quantitative target for marine protected areas
- These commitments would add another 8.9% of conserved areas in the national waters bringing it to above 20% more than double the target for the global ocean
- **The world is on track to achieve the target of 10% protection of the global ocean by 2020.**
- There is still a need however, to focus on other aspects -representativeness, management effectiveness, governance and equity of marine protected areas.

More details of the commitments:

Source of MPA additions	Area to be added (km ²)	Contribution within national waters	Global contribution
National Priority Actions (Roadmaps)	353,260	0.25%	0.10%
Approved GEF projects	315,439	0.22%	0.09%
Voluntary commitments from Ocean conference (national waters)	2,101,456	1.49%	0.58%
Voluntary commitments from Ocean conference (ABNJ)	1,800,000	0	0.50%
Other Large MPA proposals (national waters)	7,421,685	5.26%	2.05%
Other Large MPA proposals (ABNJ)	1,550,000	0	0.43%
Micronesia and Caribbean Challenge	259,360	0.21%	0.08%
NBSAP targets	2,020,042	1.43%	0.56%
TOTAL additions (national commitments)	15,831,219	8.8%	4.4%
TOTAL current (June 2017) + commitments		23.2%	10.1%

5. What is the level of Confidence that the commitments will be delivered?

Answer:

- Parties to the Convention committed to add about 4.4% to slightly surpass the 10 % global ocean conservation Target by 2020.
 - ✓ Out of which 3.74 % addition of commitments from national priority actions identified by the countries, outcomes of approved GEF projects, voluntary commitments from ocean conference, have significant confidence levels as they have detailed implementation plans in place.
 - ✓ (The remaining 0.64% commitments consisting of some additions from Challenges of Micronesia and Caribbean, targets included in the revised NBSAPs not accounted elsewhere may have low confidence levels).

6. What is the World Data Base on Protected Areas and what data does it use?

Answer:

- The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is the most comprehensive global database on terrestrial and marine protected areas. It is a joint project between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), managed by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).
- UNEP-WCMC only uses points and polygons submitted to the World Database on Protected Areas. The majority of these sites are available for download at **www.protectedplanet.net**. However, due to restrictions requested by the data providers, a small number of sites are not made publicly available, but are used by the WCMC in their analyses.
- UNEP-WCMC decides not to include all sites in the database for protected area coverage analyses. Proposed protected areas are excluded as are sites submitted as points with no report. Currently **UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (MAB)** are excluded, on the basis that that the MAB sites currently in the WDPA include buffer and transition zones that in many cases are not protected areas. MAB Core areas are usually protected areas designated at a national level and are therefore generally accounted for in our calculation. UNEP-WCMC is working with the MAB Secretariat to have an accurate set of boundaries for the core areas to ensure the contribution of these sites is accurately reflected. .

7. Which base map layer is used for calculating the area from converting the Percentage Targets from the NBSAPs?

Answer:

- Wherever clear area is indicated in the above commitments, that area is taken into account while calculating the net commitments.
- For converting Targets mentioned in the revised NBSAPS into area, first the total extent of national waters is taken from the December release of the WDPA (which used a combination of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ; VLIZ 2014) and terrestrial country boundaries (World Vector Shoreline, 3rd edition, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency); except for the EEZ area of sub-national regions (Easter Island, Gilbert and Line Islands), as well as territorial waters (up to

12nm) and contiguous zones (up to 24nm) which are taken from Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ, 2014 and 2016). EEZ v8, territorial waters and contiguous zone v1. Available online at: <http://www.marineregions.org/>, to arrive upon the area equivalent to the target.

- Then from that the existing area of MPAs in June 2017 release of WDPa and any other commitments are deducted to arrive upon net commitment .area equivalent to the target

8. Are there still opportunities towards upward revision of those commitments?

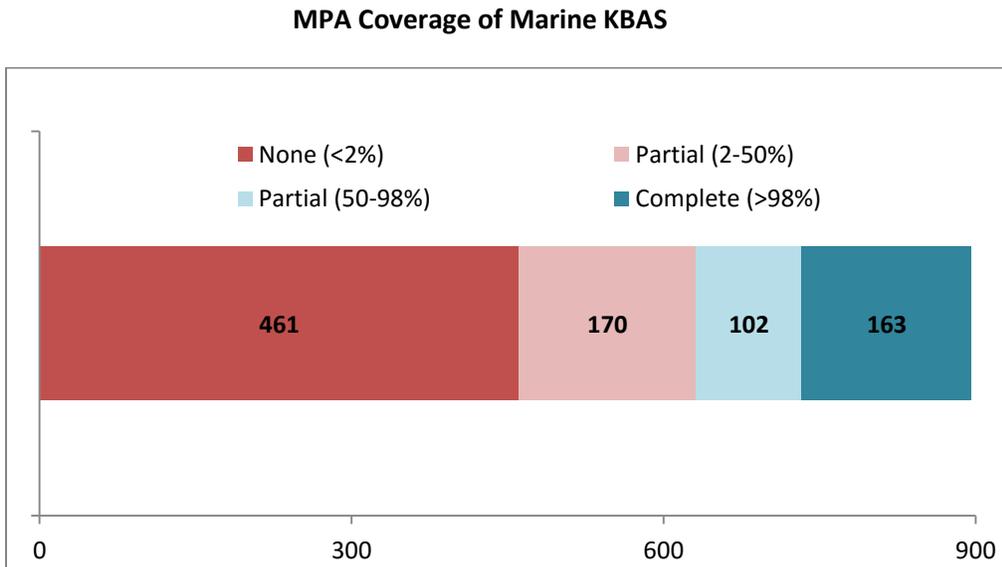
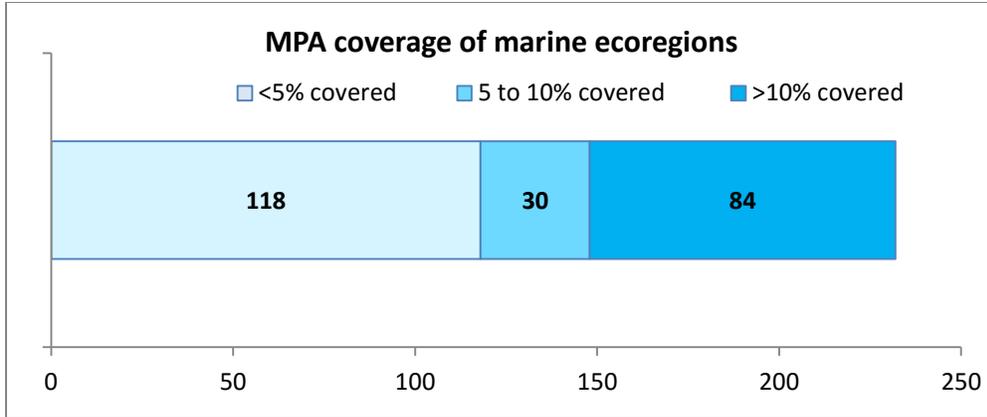
Answer:

- Yes there still opportunities towards upward revision of commitments , for example
 - ✓ Comprehensive assessment of the coverage of inshore waters of Locally Managed Marine Areas in Pacific, mainland Asia, Africa, GRULAC etc.
 - ✓ Area of proposed MPAs indicated in priority actions by countries but did not specify actual area (For example one of the voluntary commitments on Ocean Conference OceanAction16178 - Protecting 3.7 million square kilometres through the \$15 million WCS Marine Protected Area Fund to support legal declaration of new MPAs in 20 countries (Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Argentina, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, the U.S. and Canada) covering 3.7 million of previously unsecured and unprotected ocean. *Eight of these 20 countries* submitted priority actions indicating they were expanding marine protected area coverage, but did not indicate the extent. In the calculation of commitments this is not accounted.
 - ✓ Calibrated information up to 2020 from the Revised NBSAPS of 27 countries which either did not differentiate target for marine /terrestrial or whose Target date is beyond 2020.
- In addition, successful implementation of the Biodiversity strategic plan and the Ocean conference may catalyze new commitments by other Parties of the Convention.

9. What about ecological representativity and coverage of areas important for biodiversity by Marine protected Areas?

Answer:

- As per 2016 Protected Planet Report, out of 232 marine ecoregions, 84 have 10% or more coverage under existing protected areas. Increased coverage, by Marine Protected Areas and Locally Managed Marine Areas for the remaining 148 marine ecoregions is needed which are currently less than 10% protected/conserved
- In case of Areas important for Biodiversity (Key Biodiversity Areas) out of the total 896, identified Marine Key Biodiversity Areas, 163 have complete coverage and 272 have partial coverage in the existing marine protected areas. Increased coverage, by Marine Protected Areas and Locally Managed Marine Areas for the remaining 461 marine KBAS is needed which are currently less than 2% protected/conserved



- Therefore more systematic efforts by all in a concerted manner especially with respect to systematic mapping of new protected areas and locally managed marine areas vis-a-vis marine ecological regions and marine KBAs is needed

10. What are Locally Managed Marine Areas and their importance to Aichi Target 11 and SDG 14?

Answer:

- Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA's) are protected areas that are largely or wholly managed by coastal communities and/or land-owning groups, with the support of government and partner representatives. The communities impose restrictions on areas such as 'no-take zones' and on certain equipment, practices, species or sizes of catches. These zones or restrictions allow resource and habitat recovery in over exploited areas, enabling a return to more sustainable harvest of marine resources for the community.

- First recognized in Fiji, LMMA's are being replicated across coastal communities world-wide. More than 420 Indo-Pacific sites in the LMMA network involve around 600 villages and LMMAs cover more than 12,000 km² in 15 Pacific Island States. LMMAs are now in Madagascar and Indian Ocean.
- Locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) may provide a significant contribution to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and several targets of SDG 14, but LMMAs are currently under-represented in the global protected area database that is used for assessing progress towards these targets (i.e. the World Data-base on Protected Areas).
- These local management approaches have encouraged many islands to adopt these as national policy approaches to coastal fisheries management and conservation

11. What is the value of marine protected areas?

Answer:

- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are critical to sustainable development in general and SDG 14 in particular. This is because, covering about 70% of the earth's surface, marine ecosystems play a crucial role in human welfare by providing social, economic and environmental benefits to the world's rapidly growing population and human lives heavily depend on marine ecosystems that are healthy, resilient, and productive.
- MPAs are an extremely important *policy instrument* that effectively deals with several pressures on marine biodiversity (e.g. overfishing, habitat destruction and competing demand for marine space); and that ensures conservation and sustainable use of vast, multidimensional and ecologically complex oceans, seas and marine resources as well as their vulnerable marine ecosystems.
- **Food security, Livelihoods, Jobs and Income:** An estimated 3.1 billion people rely on oceans for almost 20% of their animal protein intake (through seafood) and more than 500 million people are engaged in ocean-related livelihood
 - ✓ 20-30 percent protection of the global oceans as Marine Protected Areas could create 1 million jobs and sustain a marine fish catch worth US\$70-80 billion annually
 - ✓ Successful MPAs may also create indirect income for sectors providing goods and services to the fishing and tourist operators;
- **Poverty Alleviation:** Marine protected areas have been proven to help alleviate poverty through improved fish catches, new jobs, mostly in tourism, stronger local governance, benefits to health, and benefits to women by empowering them economically and socially. While the direct increase in job opportunities tends to benefit local communities, indirect impacts can benefit different groups of stakeholders also at the regional and national scale
- **Climate mitigation and disaster risk reduction:** For instance, mangroves and coral reefs provide valuable protection against extreme weather events such as winds, storms, floods and coastal erosion, and the oceans have absorbed one third of the carbon

dioxide resulting from human activities The natural environment can also moderate temperatures;

12. Are Marine Protected Areas Effective?

- Marine Protected Areas can play a critical role in protecting marine biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and sustaining healthy coastal communities However MPAS globally face many challenges in achieving their objectives. For example, there may be insufficient financial and technical resources, lack of trained staff, or lack of data for management decisions. Management of MPAS must be effective in order to address these challenges and realize the benefits they can provide.
- A team of researchers from the University of Tasmania , in 2015 surveyed 87 MPAs around the world and found that successful MPAs better protected large fish ,which were declining by 80% outside the protected areas. But they also found that only few of the total surveyed MPAS could be considered successful.

13. What is the future outlook?

Answer:

- With more systematic and concerted efforts by all in a coherent manner in next 3 years 7 months, status of other elements of Aichi Target 11 would be quite reasonably improved (Please note that Target 11 road maps, actions identified in the revised NBSAPs, GEF MPA projects addresses those elements and a more systematic assessment and monitoring is needed to take note of the implementation of those projects/programmes. Systematic assessment of LMMAs and their contribution to representativity, coverage of KBAs, management, governance, equity, connectivity and integration into wider seascape contributes to and further augment the positive outlook.
- As of a 2015 assessment of submissions to the Global Data Base on Protected Area Management Effectiveness, some 42 CBD Parties (or 21.4%) have implemented management effectiveness evaluations in at least 60 per cent of their protected areas.
- A systematic and concerted effort by all is needed to improve effectiveness of MPAs

14. Examples of countries which designated large MPAs since April 2016 release of the WDPA and those countries which committed to establish large MPAS by 2020?

Answer:

- Examples of some countries which designated large MPAs since April 2016 release of WDPA include:
 - ✓ **Chile:** Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park - **300,035 Km²**
 - ✓ **Palau :** National Marine Sanctuary in the Western Pacific Ocean – **500,000 Km²**
 - ✓ **Mexico:** three large MPAs – **236,976km²**
 - ✓ **France:** Protection zone around the Réserve naturelle nationale des Terres Australes Françaises – **900 000 km²**

- Examples of some countries which committed to establish large MPAs by 2020 include:
 - ✓ **Seychelles:** MPAs covering 30% of its EEZ by 2020, as part of a comprehensive marine spatial plan for its entire EEZ - **401,756Km²**
 - ✓ **Chile:** Entire EEZ of Easter Island designated a multiple-use MPA [after subtracting area under already designated Motu Motiro Hiva Marine and Juan Fernandez MPA- **584,941Km²**
 - ✓ **Fiji:** Goal of protecting 30% of sea by 2020. - **375,957Km²**
 - ✓ **UK Overseas Territories in** Ascension and Tristan de Cunha: Added by 2019 and 2020, respectively (area for Ascension **220,000** as per communication with CBD PoWPA focal point 05/18/17)- **970,510 Km²**

15. Are EBSAs also marine protected areas? Should they be?

Answer:

- EBSAs are areas that meet the CBD criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. The EBSA work under the CBD has sought to describe the areas or “special places” of the oceans that are crucial to the healthy functioning of the marine ecosystems. They describe a broad range of different types of features and systems that are important for different reasons. EBSAs do not entail management measures, but simply focus on the ecological and biological features of an area. It is up to governments and competent intergovernmental organizations to decide what types of management measures may be appropriate for an EBSA. Given the large variety of these types of features of EBSA, there are different types of tools that may be appropriate, including MPAs, marine spatial planning, impact assessment, or fisheries management, for example.

16. What is the distribution of marine protected areas within national waters and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in 2017 June release of WDPA and in the commitment?

Answer:

- In June 2017 release of WDPA out of 5.7% of global ocean, 5.55% occur in national waters and 0.15% in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
- In the Proposed commitments of about 4.4% of global ocean, 3.45% is within national waters national waters and about 0.94% in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

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