



PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed 00:01 Central European Time, June 5th 2017

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

- *The total area covered by Marine Protected Areas globally has increased nearly twenty-fold since 1993 and has more than doubled since 2010*
- *The 10% targets agreed under both the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Sustainable Development Goal 14 are on track to be met by the 2020 target date*
- *Ongoing efforts are needed to ensure effective and equitable management, and to protect a wider variety of species and ecosystems*

5 June 2017 – With recent commitments made by governments around the globe, the world is on track to protect over 10% of the globe's marine areas by 2020, announced Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

This target was agreed by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, and was also adopted by Member States of the United Nations as part of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Since 1993, when the Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force, the area of marine protected areas in the world's ocean and coastal waters has increased nearly twenty-fold, from 0.3% to 5.7% today. Since the adoption, in 2010, of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity targets, the area of marine protected areas has more than doubled, from 2.4 to 5.7 %.

With commitments made as of today by a number of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, an additional 4.4% percent of marine area will be covered by Marine Protected Areas by 2020.

These national commitments include: increases in protected areas expected from projects already funded; national priority identified by countries under their plans submitted to the Convention; and voluntary commitments announced in advance of the Oceans Conference. Three quarters of these new commitments have been made with implementation plans giving confidence that they will be carried out.

Focussing only on areas under national jurisdiction, 14.4% are currently protected; this is projected to rise to over 23% by 2020.

“The world is making tremendous progress in reaching this target for protected areas in our oceans, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has been a catalyzing force” said Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer.

“However,” she continued, “we still need to increase efforts”. “We need to ensure that the growing network of Marine Protected Areas is representative of the different ocean ecosystems. We also need to ensure that marine protected areas are managed effectively and fairly.”



“As we mark World Environment Day, these concrete steps towards protecting more of the world's marine areas is another cause for celebration. Our planet's biodiversity is critical for humanity, and all countries must redouble their efforts to reach our common objectives,” said Erik Solheim, Head of UN Environment.

Marine Protected Areas contribute substantial social, economic and environmental benefits to society. They provide food security and livelihood security for some 300 million people, help mitigation and adaption to climate change and contribute to coastal protection and disaster risk reduction. Rates of return on investment in marine protected areas are very high. Recognizing the link between protected areas and human benefits, the Convention's Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 takes an inclusive, people-centred approach to management.

The Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international legal instrument for protected areas, supporting and fostering national and multilateral efforts in a comprehensive manner that contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda. The date for achievement of the targets for protected areas coincides with the end of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

NOTES TO EDITORS

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Flyer with data charts <https://www.cbd.int/pa/UN-Ocean-Conference/flyer-en.pdf>
- Table with country by country data on commitments <https://www.cbd.int/pa/UN-Ocean-Conference/MPA-commitments.xlsx>
- FAQs <https://www.cbd.int/pa/UN-Ocean-Conference/faq-en.pdf>

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

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 196 Parties so far, 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 tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 99 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
