

ECO

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Submissions are welcome from all civil society groups.

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Opening Statement

CBD Alliance

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

The CBD Alliance warmly welcomes the new CBD Executive Secretary and his stated priority: Implementation.

We pledge to help as strongly as we can to achieve this priority.

In view of this, we recall the triple objectives of the Convention that should be upheld as the foundation for all aspects of the Convention: **from elaboration of decisions to implementation to monitoring, evaluation and reporting.**

The CBD Alliance strongly rejects any regression on these objectives in any new decisions, and in implementing the CBD, and the retirement of existing decisions that still require implementation. We urge you to ensure that this is not happening and the following fundamental principles are reaffirmed throughout:

- The value of biodiversity and the conservation of life itself – well beyond placing a price tag on it
- Sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing
- The Precautionary Principle
- The ecosystem approach
- The vital role of women, and of traditional knowledge, livelihoods, institutions, and rights of the primary defenders of biodiversity: indigenous peoples and local communities, including fisherfolk, peasant farmers, and pastoralists

What does this mean for decisions to be taken at this COP?

- **The CBD as International Law:** The COP must not fail to recognise the legally binding nature of the treaty and should fulfill its statutory mandate to “keep under review the implementation of the Convention”.
- **Aichi targets and implementation:** Adopt measurable indicators, milestones, and regular reporting on the Aichi targets in order to incentivize implementation of the CBD and its strategic plan, including a mid-term review to be published as GBO-4;
- **Finance:** We call on parties to fulfill their obligations to provide adequate financial resources, especially to avoid a corporate takeover of the implementation of CBD objectives.
- **Perverse incentives:** Phase out perverse legal and economic incentives and investments that lead to biodiversity loss.

- **Marine and coastal:** Underline the importance of taking forward the process of describing and identifying Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and through the integration of their traditional, scientific, technical, and technological knowledge.
- **Inland waters:** Review, phase out, and prevent projects and processes that damage freshwater biodiversity, including large hydroelectricity projects, and international funding and endorsement of such projects, for example, the CDM under UNFCCC.
- **Protected Areas:** Improve implementation of Element 2 of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas; including through collaboratively developing criteria for Aichi Target 11's "other effective area-based conservation measures", such as self-defined Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs).
- **Forests:** Secure sufficient financial resources within and outside the Secretariat to implement the CBD forest biodiversity work programme and related decisions, including elaboration of an appropriate forest definition, rather than focusing on non-binding guidelines for voluntary REDD+ safeguards.
- **Poverty:** Address the systemic factors that lead to insecure rights to natural resources and the unfair distribution of power and wealth, which lead to biodiversity loss by, among other measures, ensuring equitable access to and utilization of natural resources, and conferring collective rights to relevant peoples and communities.
- **Agriculture:** Defend, support and protect the rights of smallholder and peasant farmers, pastoralists, and artisanal fishers, who conserve and develop agricultural biodiversity in situ thereby securing food sovereignty.
- **Biofuels:** Go beyond empty text on voluntary tools, standards, certification, methodologies and definitions, and heed the calls for an end to subsidies, mandates and targets for biofuels, recognising that industrial biofuel crops are a major contributor to landgrabbing and biodiversity loss.
- **Biosafety:** Reject dangerous technologies associated with the bioeconomy and living modified organisms, including GE trees, algae and crops, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, biochar, cultivation of invasive species and the development of synthetic organisms.
- **Geo-engineering:** Extend the de facto moratorium of 2010 and affirm that the CBD is the appropriate body to oversee governance of geo-engineering in the absence of any other transparent, global and effective regulatory structure.

What is the CBD Alliance?

Founded after the 6th COP in Den Haag, the Netherlands (April 2002), CBD Alliance is a loose network of activists and representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), social movements and Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs) advocating for improved and informed participation in CBD processes.

Daily NGO meeting

9 hrs

NGO Room 1.02

CBD Alliance would like to thank Swedbio for their continued and ongoing support. We would also like to thank Christensen Funds for supporting the participation of CBD Alliance candidates at the COP11.

Join the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)!

Young people are invited to join the Global Youth Biodiversity Network. GYBN aims to represent the voice of global youth in the CBD processes, raise awareness among young people of the values of biodiversity and connect individuals and youth organizations in order to build a global coalition to halt the loss of biodiversity. We are committed to bring the opinions and positions of young people into the negotiations so that they are heard and taken into consideration. GYBN seeks to inspire global youth and future leaders to work for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for a healthy environment and society.

Please join our **Daily Strategy Meetings** at **8PM to 10PM** (8-12 Oct, and 15-19 Oct,) in 1.01 (Women Caucasus Room, HICC) and our **Side Events** on **16 Oct. (18:15 to 19:45)** Room 2.01, Level 2 as well as **18 Oct. (18:15 - 19:45)** Room 1.05, Level 1.



Side event

The People's Convention

A Panel Discussion on the Legal Status and State of Implementation of the CBD from 1992-2020

An assessment of the CBD conducted by the CBD Alliance highlights significant gaps in its implementation as well as of the many COP decisions and instruments adopted since 1992. It also raises concerns over the undermining of the legally binding nature of the Convention itself, which translates into further complications at the national level when Parties strive to enact their international commitments.

Join us for an engaging panel discussion with representatives from the CBD Secretariat, governments, and civil society and Indigenous peoples' organisations, who will openly deliberate the legally binding nature of the Convention, and implementation, monitoring and compliance since 1992.

Organised by CBD Alliance and Natual Justice

Monday, 8 October, 13:15-14:45 - Room G.03, Ground Level

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?

EBSA Process for marine and coastal areas

Sumana Narayanan, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

One of the important issues being discussed under the programme of work on coastal and marine biodiversity during COP11 is related to the description and identification of *ecologically or biologically significant marine and coastal areas* (EBSAs).

The importance of traditional knowledge and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in all aspects of the work of the Convention is well recognized within the CBD.

Yet, in the five regional workshops held so far to identify and describe EBSAs, and despite decisions from COP9 (IX/20) and 10 (X/29) calling for integrating the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities has not been facilitated in any meaningful way in this process.

‘Scientific’ criteria are being used to describe and identify EBSAs with no effort to integrate the traditional knowledge of IPLCs into this process. Clearly the process adopted so far needs to be reviewed.

Also important to note is that the scientific criteria being used were arrived at through discussions at workshops held before 2008. Parties adopted these criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats through decision IX/20. However, the recent regional workshops have shifted the focus from the open ocean to include coastal and marine areas. Yet the criteria for describing EBSAs continues to be those framed in earlier workshops that did not also focus on coastal and marine areas within national jurisdiction.

Given this context, the study on “Identifying 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 identification of EBSAs as well as the establishment and management of marine protected areas” (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/10) can only be welcomed.

Apart from highlighting the importance of integrating traditional knowledge of IPLCs into the EBSA process, the study also highlights an issue that is by now well recognized– that social conditions often determine long-term biological success of conservation initiatives. Developing socio-cultural

criteria for EBSAs to be used alongside the existing scientific criteria, particularly in areas with pre-existing human populations/uses, recognizing

that the eventual management of the identified areas will be dependent on social, economic and cultural factors, makes eminent sense. Such an approach is likely to have benefits for both biodiversity and livelihoods.

National governments need to make enabling policies to take forward the process of describing and identifying EBSAs with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. They also need to ensure effective and equitable governance of such areas particularly through the use of social and cultural criteria.

It is important to get this right, if we are to move forward. Training materials, workshops, and capacity building exercises for describing and identifying EBSAs that integrate the above issues are essential.

“Clearly, the process adopted so far needs to be reviewed.”