

SBSTTA-22 Agenda Item 8: Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Scheduled for Tuesday 3 July 2018

Statement by the ICCA Consortium

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am speaking on behalf of the ICCA Consortium, a global association of Indigenous peoples' and community organisations and their supporters.

Our Members have participated actively in regional EBSAs workshops with the goal of ensuring the appropriate incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous and Local Knowledge. We also acknowledge our invitation to participate in the informal advisory group for the Secretariat for EBSAs and note the Training Manual on the Incorporation of Traditional Knowledge description and identification of EBSAs (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/21). The incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Local Knowledge is an important consideration because *territories and areas governed, managed and conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities – also referred to as “ICCA—territories of life”* have the richest Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Indigenous Local Knowledge and biocultural diversity, which has historically been overlooked and sometimes destroyed. Many ICCAs in marine and coastal areas are overlapped by EBSAs and it is clear that these communities have important traditional knowledge concerning them and their resources.

In general, we support the Annex, which contains options for modifying and describing new EBSAs and for strengthening the scientific credibility and transparency of this process.

The Annex notes that traditional knowledge holders can suggest the modification of EBSAs, and *Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* should participate in regional networks of experts. In addition the Annex speaks to the importance of *Traditional Ecological Knowledge* used with the free prior and informed consent of the knowledge holders, and the full and effective participation of *Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* in the EBSA process. What is less clear is how the EBSA process will consider the scientific, *Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Indigenous Local Knowledge* and biocultural values in their design. The EBSA mapping and delineation process could raise more awareness of the importance of the relationship between *Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* and the EBSA and the ICCAs that fall within EBSAs. In this way the EBSA process could also help secure and support the stated will of the custodians of those conserved areas, for example by securing collective tenure and sparing them from undesired extractive concessions. In addition during the follow up on the outcomes of EBSA regional workshops, *Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Local Knowledge*-based indicators and *Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* -engaged monitoring should be more fully promoted and supported.

Accordingly, we kindly request Parties to consider adding the following new text under the Annex, Section III (“Options for strengthening the scientific credibility and transparency of the EBSA Process”), Sub-section B (“Transparency of the Regional Workshops on EBSAs”):

Para 18 sub-para (a) bis Follow-up action at the national and other levels, to include guidelines for monitoring the concerned EBSA(s) using scientific and TEK/ILK and implications for threats and effectiveness of management measures currently or potentially in use to support national efforts

AND/

Para 18 sub-para (a) ter Considering the use of EBSAs descriptions that overlap ICCAs in support of measures to enhance the governance capacity of IPLC and to secure positive and sustained long-term outcomes for biodiversity, including policy frameworks and regulations to prevent and respond to threats.

Secondly, we wish to remind the Parties of Decision XII/23 paragraph 3 in which the conference of the parties encouraged parties and other governments to work with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to *inter alia* avoid, minimize and mitigate the potential significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities possess detailed knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem trends, and are often the first to detect the impacts of noise on the marine biota, changes in sea-ice and changes to other aspects of the marine environment.

We would appreciate the support of Parties in this regard. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.