

Thank you Madam [Chair] [Moderator],

IUCN welcomes the increasing efforts by many countries and organizations to protect, conserve and sustainably manage the oceans. However, IUCN notes with regrets that none of the targets to be met by 2020 have been achieved.

As we look forward to post-2020 targets, IUCN urges UN Member States and all stakeholders to be more ambitious, take increased action and redouble efforts to ensure that areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are effectively protected and that we aim for 100% of the ocean to be sustainably managed applying the ecosystem approach.

The past decade provides us with enough experiences and lessons learned that need to be taken into account in shaping the path forward and IUCN notes the following points:

- Many studies including the latest IPCC report are clear that we need to protect more of the oceans and coasts. We urge countries to Commit to protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030 with a focus on sites of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. It is important that these areas are first and foremost effectively managed. Paper parks should not count towards the target.
- Other effective area-based conservation measures, OECMs, will be an essential element in achieving the target. They also provide an opportunity to contribute jointly to biodiversity conservation goals and several other SDGs. But it's important they do not become a catch all of any sustainable use measure as that would render the target meaningless.
- IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas are pleased to provide technical support and capacity building to countries in this regard. The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard and IUCN Guidance on OECMs provide practical guidance and standards to help countries to accurately report their MPAs and OECMs and deliver benefits and avoid ecosystems decline and species loss.
- Considering the urgent need to rebuild global ocean health, productivity and resilience and safeguard marine life in areas beyond national jurisdiction, IUCN urges Member States to conclude, in 2022, the negotiation of a new and ambitious international legally binding instrument, on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in Areas

Beyond National Jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

- Lastly, any management of the oceans needs to account for the impacts of climate change. The numerous co-benefits from conservation and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, in particular coral reefs and mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrass meadows, for climate mitigation and adaptation offer new opportunities when considered in conjunction. IUCN calls on countries to scale up Nature-based Solutions – as part of their Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and other national climate and disaster risk management plans and policies.

Thank you.