

2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE

Written Submission
European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
Jacopo Pasquero – International Affairs Advisor

The European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) looks forward to an ambitious and inclusive outcome of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference. To that aim, the Interactive Dialogue *Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets* is of crucial importance in making sure that the environmental sustainability of marine resources is coupled with the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of coastal communities. In this regard, EBCD would like to stress the following:

- Aquatic food systems need to be at the centre of ocean discussions, as **sustainable development can only be achieved through dialogue and participation of all stakeholders**. In this context, collaboration across levels of governance and sectors is essential to strengthen the interface between food security and biodiversity conservation.
- **The Ecosystem-based Approach (EbA)** remains the most effective measure to ensure the sustainability of marine biodiversity while taking into account the human dimension. Area-Based Management Tools, like Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) also offer an opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the Ecosystem-based Approach.
- Climate change has a clear impact on ocean biodiversity and coastal communities whose livelihoods depend on marine resources. At the same time, aquatic food systems need to mitigate their CO₂ emissions to fully transition towards a low-carbon future. In this context, **the decarbonization of the fisheries sector** needs to follow the process already initiated by the shipping industry. Climate mitigation considerations should also be mainstreamed in the future development of aquaculture, while considering different capacities across regions.
- Fisheries management has proven to lead to sustainable outcomes when effective and properly enforced. However, **capacities to achieve these objectives highly vary across countries** and more financial resources need to be allocated to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources in different regions. The same logic applies to the fight against **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**, for which the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) is a robust tool but remains difficult to implement for many countries with limited capacities.
- The High Seas Treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)** needs to be concluded as early as possible given the urgency to better regulate areas beyond national jurisdiction, while not undermining existing institutions including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).