

11.3 Convention on Biological Diversity

Summary of role: *The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992 to achieve three goals, including conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.*

Summary of recommendations and work status: *Under the CBD, an expert workshop was organised to prepare practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats in 2014. In 2016, the COP of the CBD acknowledged and urged states to take into account the Voluntary Technical Guidance on Preventing and Mitigating the Impacts of Marine Debris on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Habitats.*

Keywords/research fields: *Convention on Biological Diversity; CBD; background and aim; work; expert workshop; preventing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity; report “Marine Debris as a Global Environmental Problem: Introducing a solutions based framework focused on plastic”; workshop; Voluntary Technical Guidance on Preventing and Mitigating the Impacts of Marine Debris on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Habitats*

11.3.1 Background and aim

Key objectives of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. The CBD applies to both terrestrial and marine biodiversity. The governing body of the CBD is the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (CBD COP), which meets every two years and advance implementation of the convention. All ASEAN member states are party to the CBD.

11.3.2 Ongoing work

For many other intergovernmental bodies, concern with marine litter and plastic arose initially in the context of the impact of marine debris on marine biodiversity. This triggered the attention of the CBD and the preparation of the 2011 report 'Marine Debris as a Global Environmental Problem: Introducing a solutions-based framework focused on plastic' (available: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/mcbem-2014-03/other/mcbem-2014-03-sbstta-16-inf-15-en.pdf>).

Subsequently, in 2012, the CBD COP decided to organise an expert workshop to prepare practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats. The workshop took place in 2014 and identified a number of knowledge gaps including:

- On land-based sources of marine debris: quantity entering the ocean, quantification of impacts through habitat loss and degradation, lack of harmonised monitoring, analysis and reporting, distribution including habitat modelling for different indicator species and species risk assessments, rate of degradation or fragmentation, detection of invasive species on floating marine debris, socio-economic research and impact evaluation as well as social factors which lead to the production of marine debris.
- On sea-based sources of marine debris: types and magnitude of marine debris generated and location, valuation of marine debris (replacement and disposal costs and lost time) and impacts of marine debris on habitats and/or species, as well as a focus on aquaculture.
- To increase knowledge and information on the sources, volumes and areas of accumulation, develop a risk assessment-based approach to impact by:
 - Modelling the overlap between areas of accumulations and marine species habitats and migration routes; and
 - Focusing on potential hotspots of different debris types and sources to understand and quantify impact.
- On monitoring, modelling and data application, including microplastics and other microparticles, data for the deep sea and seabed.
- On contribution from offshore development industries and sacrificial fishing gear.
- Overall, on understanding the population-level effects of marine debris rather than on a limited number of species subject to entanglement or ingestion of large marine debris, pathways, trophic transfer, etc.

This report is available as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/7* and the background document for the preparation of this practical guidance is available as UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/3/INF/2.

In 2016, the CBD COP acknowledged a Voluntary Technical Guidance on Preventing and Mitigating the Impacts of Marine Debris on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Habitats and urged states to take them into account.

This guidance document (available: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-83-en.pdf>) focuses on actions to address:

- Land-based sources of marine debris through the prevention of waste from reaching the ocean, including via empowering relevant stakeholders/civil society groups, engaging the private sector on a series of possible paths, mainstreaming marine debris issues into

national regulatory and policy frameworks, enhancing international and regional cooperation and influencing consumer choice and behaviour;

- Sea-based sources of marine debris, including ALDFG, area-based management to minimise loss of fishing gear, vessel-associated inputs and aquaculture; and
- Emerging issues including wet storage, recreational fishing and tourism sector and inclusion of marine debris considerations in labelling and certification schemes.

In 2018, the CBD COP reiterated earlier decisions and emphasised the importance of consultation and cooperation among relevant bodies. The next CBD COP is scheduled for the last quarter of 2020.