

**The Global Forum on Oceans Coasts and Islands announces:**

# **The Oceans Day at Nagoya**

**at the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,  
Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan**

**October 23, 2010**

**I**ncreasing scientific evidence is indicating the rapidly declining health of marine and coastal biodiversity. The main drivers of marine biodiversity loss are inherently difficult to control and are predicted to increase in the future, as 50% of the world's population is expected to live in coastal areas by 2015 and impacts due to climate change are likely to grow.

In recognition of this major problem, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) drafted the Jakarta Mandate on Marine Coastal Biodiversity in 1995, articulating a global consensus on the need to address the major threats to marine biodiversity. In 2002, the world's governments took bold steps in agreeing to a target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 and to develop representative networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2012.

As these deadlines approach and biodiversity targets remain unmet at the global scale, the global community must now reflect on why significant progress has not been made and craft the next steps to advance the marine biodiversity agenda. The Tenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-10), in the context of the International Year of Biodiversity, provides a critical opportunity to reach high-level decision-makers and foster support for a renewed global mandate to conserve marine biodiversity for present and future generations.

Oceans Day in Nagoya will draw high-level policy attention to the need to address the major drivers of ocean and coastal biodiversity loss, take stock of progress (or lack thereof) in the achievement of global biodiversity targets, and outline the next steps in the global oceans agenda through the launch of the *Nagoya Oceans Mandate*. Oceans Day will feature presentations from high-level representatives from all sectors, including government, international agencies, NGOs, science, and industry, organized into thematic panels focused around major topics in marine and coastal biodiversity.

## ***The Nagoya Oceans Mandate***

The *Nagoya Oceans Mandate*, to be launched at Oceans Day in Nagoya, will provide the impetus and outline the policy environment needed for renewed ambitious, relevant and timely efforts to ensure that marine and coastal biodiversity is sustained and enhanced in the future.

The *Nagoya Oceans Mandate* will outline a set of operational objectives needed to guarantee the dispersal of biodiversity, the maintenance of high levels of endemism, centers of speciation and irradiation, the contribution of the oceans to climate regulation and the continued production of food resources within the carrying capacities of marine systems.

In the spirit of the Jakarta Mandate, the *Nagoya Oceans Mandate* will rely on the principles of the ecosystem approach, intra- and inter-generational equity, and the incorporation of the best available scientific information as the basis for management decisions. These principles will guide its realization through the achievement of its operational objectives.

The *Nagoya Oceans Mandate* will rely especially on the existing and elaborated (post-2010) CBD Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and will lay out a dedicated strategy encompassing the 2010-2020 period. The central element of this strategy will be to create and maintain networks of MPAs in the context of broader ecosystem-based strategies for sustainable oceans management. Overall, this renewed focus on conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources and biodiversity will help ensure that the loss of marine biodiversity is reduced and, ultimately, halted in the future.

## ***Opportunities for Collaboration***

Organizations or individuals wishing to co-sponsor Oceans Day and/or organize a panel or presentation, should contact the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands (Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain, [bcs@udel.edu](mailto:bcs@udel.edu)) before August 1, 2010.

