



31st March 2019

CBD@mfat.govt.nz

Submission: initial views on new global targets for the Convention on Biological Diversity (to 2030)

The New Zealand Marine Sciences Society (NZMSS) is a professional society affiliated to the Royal Society of New Zealand with a membership of approximately 200 New Zealand's marine scientists. We are a non-profit organisation that provides access to, and within, the marine science community, and we identify emerging issues through annual conferences, annual reviews, a list serve and a website www.nzmqss.org.nz. NZMSS membership covers all aspects of scientific interest in the marine environment and extends to the uptake of science in marine policy, resource management, conservation and the marine business sector. We speak for members of the society and we engage with other scientific societies as appropriate.

We have recently made submissions to two CBD initiatives coordinated by the Department of Conservation that highlight our concerns about the poor state of current reporting on marine biodiversity targets. Copies of our submissions can be found on our website:

<http://nzmqss.org/assets/Biodiveristy-strategysubmitted-28-Feb-2019.pdf>

<http://nzmqss.org/assets/NZMSSSubmissionCBD-report-2018.pdf>

To achieve the 2050 vision, NZMSS considers that the marine component of the new global biodiversity targets should have the following aim:

“Healthy oceans and ecosystems, where species are thriving in near-natural conditions, where the human footprint is substantially reduced and where New Zealanders embrace understanding what the marine environment means to them.”

This statement incorporates the following areas of interest to NZMSS and of importance to New Zealand:

- Documenting the marine biodiversity of the entire marine realm comprising New Zealand's Territorial Sea, EEZ and extended continental shelf
- Implementing ecosystem based management (EMB) including sustainable uses of marine resources and a network of representative, functioning no-take marine protected areas
- Understanding the impacts of invasive species, fishing, climate change and ocean acidification on our marine biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems
- Understanding the ecosystem services that our marine environment provides
- Incorporating mātauranga Māori
- Enabling a nation-wide focus, understanding of and appreciation for the marine environment.

In our two earlier submissions, we noted that CBD's national and Aichi targets incorporating marine biodiversity were few and relatively narrow in scope. Further, where some targets could have included marine targets, these were not reported against by New Zealand (for example, Aichi targets 8 and 19). With regards to the marine targets, NZMSS was concerned at the insufficient progress made, in particular, regarding national targets 5, 12 and 13; and, Aichi targets 6, 11 (information relates to Aichi target 6) and 12 (little if any progress).

NZMSS is of the view that the new CBD targets should incorporate more marine biodiversity targets that better reflect the vast range of marine species, habitats, ecosystems and biogeographic regions that make up the world's seas, together with the ecosystem services that they provide people. The new targets should include provision for advancing knowledge and understanding of the oceans' marine biodiversity, as well as recognising the role of traditional/cultural knowledge of the marine environment and its resources.

Reporting against the new targets should require countries to use SMART objectives to enable more effective and meaningful reporting.

NZMSS thanks the Ministry for this opportunity to make comments on the CBD's vision and new targets for the next ten-plus years. We welcome the opportunity to provide further detail in relation to the points made in our submission and to participate in the next stage of the target setting process. Please contact me at the email address provided below.

Dr Nick Shears



President
New Zealand Marine Sciences Society

Address for service:

Email: n.shears@auckland.ac.nz