



SBSTTA 22

Montreal, Canada, 02 - 07 July 2018

Agenda Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Marine and coastal biodiversity: Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, addressing anthropogenic underwater noise and marine debris, biodiversity in cold-water areas and marine spatial planning**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. This statement is made on behalf of International Indigenous Forum in Biodiversity IIFB.

We congratulate the Parties for the enormous amount of work in developing the documents on EBSAs that are very carefully negotiated and drafted.

We emphasize the critical role marine biodiversity plays to the health, spirituality and holistic well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities. There is a close link between healthy marine ecosystems and resilient coastal communities. Ecologically and biologically significant areas are also often culturally and socially significant areas for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The IIFB proposes a change in the Annex to the Document CBD/SBSTTA/22/7, in Section I (Modification of Existing EBSAs), sub-section C (Actors that can propose modification of existing EBSA description), paragraph (e): delete the phrase starting in line two: *"should be encouraged to draw the attention of States and the Secretariat to any of the above reasons to facilitate the preparation of modification proposals, if appropriate, and"* further add the word: *"can"* before *provide suggestions for modification* and add *to the Secretariat or relevant State or States*, so it will read as follows:

(I C 3. (e)) Knowledge holders, including scientific research organizations, non-governmental organizations and holders of and experts in traditional knowledge **can** provide suggestions for modification **to the Secretariat and relevant State or States**.

We will propose a similar change to section II (Description of New Areas Meeting the EBSA Criteria), Sub-section A (Actors that can propose description of new areas meeting the EBSA Criteria), article 10, paragraph (f), so it reads:

(II A 10. (f)) Knowledge holders, including scientific research organizations, non-governmental organizations and holders of/experts in traditional knowledge, **can** draw the attention of States and the Secretariat to any of the needs/reasons to facilitate the preparation of proposals for the description of a new EBSA.

We recognize that the states have their role related to proposing modifications of existing EBSAs and in description of new EBSAs. Beyond that we think the knowledge holders, including IPLC holding ILK, listed in these sections hold vital knowledge about potential EBSAs and can propose



such areas directly to the State in question and the Secretariat for further process. We would appreciate the support of parties in this regard.

#### Sustainable Ocean Initiative

Finally, Mr Chair, the IIFB welcome the success of the SOI Global Dialogues conducted so far. In the same spirit the IIFB would like to encourage the SOI to consider a future global dialogue to be devoted to *Indigenous and Local Knowledge linked to customary sustainable use of oceans and marine areas*. Such a theme would attract many different actors and address several Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as Sustainable Development Goals.

We will submit the proposal in writing.

Thank you Mr. Chair