



Early submission version - July 2026

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Twenty-eighth meeting

Nairobi, 27 July–1 August 2026

Agenda Item 8. Marine and coastal biodiversity

Thank you, Chair

I am speaking on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus.

Effective conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity depend on recognizing the complementary contributions of the best available scientific information and the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including the specialized knowledge of women. The use of such knowledge must be accompanied by documented free, prior and informed consent, and women must be enabled to participate meaningfully in the scientific and technical cooperation supporting the implementation of marine biodiversity commitments.

**In this regard, we propose the following textual adjustments to document
CBD/SBSTTA/28/7**

In section "V. Recommendations"

Paragraph 19. 3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders to contribute to the work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas under the Convention using the best available scientific information and traditional knowledge in order to increase the number ~~and~~ coverage, as well as to ensure gender-responsive approaches and equitable access to the scientific enterprise underpinning the identification of such areas around the world;

Paragraph 19. 6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate and support, as appropriate, efforts to develop submissions for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas, and, subject to the availability of resources, to convene a global expert workshop to synthesize the best available scientific information, including the traditional knowledge on such areas beyond national jurisdiction, identify capacity gaps in the development of submissions, and strengthen the capacities and the scientific and technical cooperation of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women, in support of the potential development of future submissions;

In section “Annex I Voluntary guidelines on peer-review processes for the description..”

Paragraph 11. (i) Reporting in any public documentation discussions and information provided during the process, including the traditional knowledge verifying the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities

**We would like to ask Parties for support.
Thank you.**

Refer to [CBD/SBSTTA/28/7](#) for a full set of textual recommendations.

The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) is the women's constituency within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It stands as a self-organised global platform, supporting women and girls worldwide to advocate for their rights within biodiversity related decision-making processes across all levels.
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