

Submission of proposals related to the Further revised draft text of an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

Template

Please fill out one form for each article which your delegation(s) or group(s) wish(es) to propose, amend or delete.

- 1. Name(s) of Delegation(s) and/or Group(s) making the proposal in the order that they should be listed in any conference room papers or other documents:**

International Union for Conservation of Nature

- 2. Please indicate the relevant part of the Further revised draft text (as reflected in A/CONF.232/2022/5¹) that this proposal relates to, using the drop-down menu below.**

ANNEX I Indicative criteria for identification of areas

- 3. Please indicate the relevant article of the Further revised draft text (as reflected in A/CONF.232/2022/5¹) that this proposal relates to (if applicable) or indicate if this is a proposal for an additional article**

Annex I

- 4. Kindly provide the amendments to the article that are being proposed in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the article that are being amended or deleted - examples are attached for reference.**

Ecological criteria

{(a) Uniqueness;

{(b) Rarity;}

(c) Special importance for the life history stages of species;

(d) Special importance of the species found therein;

¹ Currently available as an advance, unedited, version on the website of the IGC: [Fifth substantive session \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/)

- (e) The importance for threatened, endangered or declining species or habitats;
- (f) Vulnerability, including to climate change and ocean acidification;
- (g) Fragility;
- (h) Sensitivity;
- (i) Biological diversity;
- ~~(ibis) and P~~productivity};
- {(j) Representativeness;} [\[move to network criteria\]](#)
- (k) Dependency;
- {(l) ~~Exceptional N~~naturalness;}
- (m) [Importance for e](#)Ecological connectivity ~~{and/or coherence}~~};
- (n) Important ecological processes occurring therein;
- (r) Slow recovery and resilience;
- {(q) Cumulative and transboundary impacts;}

Social, cultural and economic criteria

- {(o) Economic and social factors;} {
- (p) Cultural ~~heritage-factors}~~;
- [\(p bis\) Baseline for monitoring studies](#)
- [\(p ter\) Long term research studies](#)

Criteria related to MPA network design

- [\(m\) Ecological connectivity and/or coherence;](#)
- ~~(j) Representativeness;~~
- (s) Adequacy and viability;
- (t) Replication;
- ~~(u) Feasibility.}~~

5. Rationale for the proposal, if any.

Recommend reorganizing criteria to separate out the different types of criteria for individual sites and those for design of MPA networks, similarly as used in the IMO's PSSA guidelines for identifying "particularly sensitive sea areas".² PSSA criteria have

² IMO A 24/Res.982, 2006. REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND DESIGNATION OF PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS <https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/OurWork/Environment/Documents/A24-Res.982.pdf>

three categories: *ecological criteria*; *social, cultural, and economic criteria*; and *scientific and educational criteria*. For Annex I, IUCN suggests adding a fourth set of criteria for the design of representative networks of connected and ecologically coherent MPAs.

Regarding criterion for “Productivity”: Suggest separating “productivity” from “biodiversity” as areas with high productivity may have lower diversity than other areas. Productivity plays an important role in fueling ecosystems and increasing the growth rates of organisms and their capacity for reproduction including a wide range of straddling or migratory species that may be temporary or periodic visitors.