

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.**

PART I GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 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**

Article 1, para. 12

- 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.**

12. “Marine protected area” means a geographically defined marine area that is ~~designated~~ dedicated, regulated -and effectively managed to achieve ~~specific~~ specific [long-term biodiversity] ~~and ecosystem~~ -conservation ~~[and sustainable use]~~ objectives.

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

5. Rationale for the proposal, if any.

The definition of “MPA” should exclude “sustainable use objectives” to ensure compatible reporting and protection standards within and beyond national jurisdictions. To qualify as an MPA, the most important elements are persistence (long term) and a primary objective of conservation (IUCN WCPA 2019²). Such a targeted conservation objective for MPAs will be vital when negotiating proposed conservation and management measures to ensure that in case of conflict, conservation remains the priority (IUCN WCPA 2019). Removing the “sustainable use” objectives also ensures that this MPA definition is consistent with other international definitions of protected areas, including those used by the IUCN, CBD and OSPAR.

And as is frequently observed, the level of protection correlates to the delivery of conservation benefits that healthy ecosystems provide including recovery and spillover of exploited species, climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, and water quality improvement (Grorud-Colvert et al., 2021)³.

² IUCN WCPA, 2019. Guidelines for applying the IUCN protected area management categories to marine protected areas <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48887>

³ Grorud-Colvert, et al, 2021. [The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean](#), Science DOI: 10.1126/science.abf086.