



## **The World Ocean Conference**

**Manado recommendations – May, 2009**

### **Understand the impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity and the role of networks of marine protected areas**

- Networks of MPAs cannot halt climate change but can greatly assist with adapting to it. Moreover, MPAs networks can assist in the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services and oceans' contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> uptake, including in the deep sea.
- Networks of MPAs respond better to climate change and other stressors when they are effectively managed. Therefore, MPA management effectiveness should be enhanced.
- The response to climate change by networks of MPAs is enhanced if other stressors and the cumulative impacts of stressors are reduced.
- Vulnerable marine areas should be given priority in the context of strategies for creating networks of MPAs.
- Ultimately the role of networks of MPAs is to ensure biological and ecological connectivity and enhance resilience of marine ecosystems to climate change.
- Means to enhance management effectiveness are governance schemes encompassing access and benefit-sharing by local communities; education and training; intersectoral coordination; continued communication; and transparency.
- There are various examples of resilient networks of MPAs at the national and regional levels.
- Opportunities do exist as climate change helps create the political will needed for nations to rely on networks of MPAs as part of their integrated conservation strategies including adaptation strategies.
- Gaps in the distribution of current networks of MPAs do exist. Moreover, these tend to be mostly coastal. Networks of MPAs should be representative and distributed consistently with their role to contribute to resilience.
- Zonation schemes should be implemented on the basis of flexible approaches. Adaptive management will also be key in ensuring flexibility vis-a-vis adaptation to climate change.

- Strategies and actions in areas outside of networks of MPAs are also needed and should be implemented.
- Networks of MPAs can be seen and relied upon as part of conservation strategies for poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, including in relation to climate change.
- In the future, while a pragmatic approach to the creation of networks of MPAs should be pursued, an approach based on the need to adapt to climate change may call for an increase in the current target of 10%.
- Existing relevant processes such as the development of criteria for identification and selection of MPAs and representative networks should be taken into account. Nations should rely on regional seas conventions and other relevant regional instruments for creating networks of MPAs, including in the open and deep ocean.
- Future MPAs will need to encompass open and deep ocean systems such as seamounts, and pilots should be implemented as of now.