



**Global Youth  
Biodiversity  
Network**

## **GYBN Intervention on Item 25- Marine and coastal biodiversity**

*Sharm el Sheik, November 20, 2018*

Thank you Madam Chair. I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

We think that the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas should be on the basis of a strong participatory process, including extensive consultation with key stakeholders for the marine conservation as Indigenous and Local Communities, Women and Youth.

Addressing climate change and ocean acidification-induced problems require greater involvement of local stakeholders, so there should be a need for cross-sectoral management of various pressures on vulnerable marine ecosystems. This should be further outlined in countries' NBSAPs--outlining the role of IPs, local communities, women and youth as key partners for implementation.

We consider that it is worth mentioning that there should also be measures to maintain the healthy populations of marine wildlife, especially marine megafaunas, which play key roles in marine ecosystems. Marine wildlife use should be better addressed through understanding existing value structures of indigenous and local communities and by strengthening wildlife laws. We believe these efforts will greatly help achieve Aichi Target 12.

GYBN would like to stress that the existing global framework is inadequate to address the marine pollution or plastic pollution crisis. GYBN therefore shares the concerns expressed by parties previously about having a stronger mention to the UNEA 3 resolution on Marine Litter and Microplastics.

*Finally, we recognize that indigenous and local knowledge complements scientific knowledge for an effective conservation of marine biodiversity. These knowledge do not only strengthen works on EBSAs but also help address multiple local anthropogenic impacts/stressors on coral reefs and other associated vulnerable ecosystems.*

We also support the intervention just made by the IIFB.

Thank you.